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THE MAGAZINE FOR SAFER LIVING

JULY 1987 VOL. 9 NO. 7
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AMERICAN SURVIVAL GUIDE

THE MAGAZINE FOR SAFER LIVING

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 7 JULY 1987

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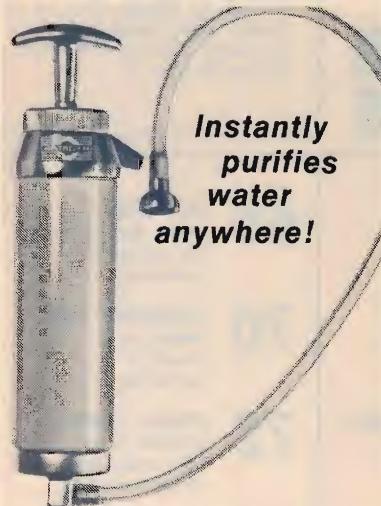


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SURVIVAL LINE

Portable nuclear reactors for national defense, bills to ban .25-, .32-caliber handgun ammo and 'invisible guns,' lightest tornado toll, relationship between climate factors and crime . . .

THE U.S. Air Force is studying proposals to build hundreds of small, portable nuclear reactors, to be used in the event the U.S. commercial power grid is destroyed in the opening stages of a nuclear war.

The reactors, which would be transported by air to sites both within and outside the U.S., would provide power for communications, data processing links, weapons launching sites, and support and repair facilities.

In testimony before a House subcommittee, the Air Force's Associate Director of Engineering and Services, Gary S. Flora, noted that "the key components of our energy supply and distribution systems are vulnerable to accident, natural disasters, terrorism, sabotage, war and economic actions." He also cited the Reagan administration doctrine on the ability to fight a protracted nuclear war, and the key role of communications between the National Command Authorities, NCA, and the nation's nuclear forces. Without an adequate power system such communications would be impossible, leaving U.S. nuclear retaliatory forces paralyzed.

If approved the portable reactors, each costing between \$65 and \$75 million and capable of generating up to 10 megawatts of power, would be shuttled between hardened underground shelters constructed at various U.S. and overseas locations.

Banning Bullets, Plastic Guns—A newly drafted bill, authored by Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan of New York and dubbed "Moynihan's Monstrosity" by pro-gun groups, seeks to ban the import and manufacture of .25 and .32 caliber handgun ammunition in the U.S.

The Citizen's Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has called the bill a "back door" attempt at gun control. An aide to the Senator conceded that the purpose of the bill was to remove a large, readily available segment of handguns from the market.

The "Invisible Gun" ban attempt has begun. "Invisible guns," so called because they are entirely plastic and can supposedly evade current weapons screening devices, currently exist only in prototype models. They are expected to be commercially available in a few years.

Anticipating this availability, a number of lawmakers have introduced legislation which would ban the sale or manufacture of "invisible guns" in the U.S. One sponsor of such a bill, Representative Robert Mrazek of New York, says that the effort to ban the weapons is "an anti-terrorism issue, not a gun control issue."

Groups opposing these bills, including the Gun Owners of America, call the bills "nothing more than an attack on the gun owner's right to keep and bear arms." They also question how a law that is effective only within the U.S. would have any impact on international terrorists' ability to acquire these weapons.

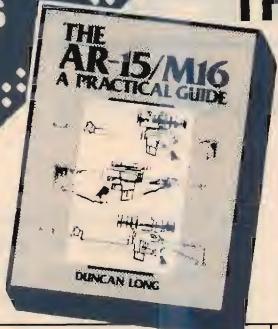
1986 Tornado Toll—1986 saw the fewest people killed by tornados in the U.S. since record keeping began in 1916. Across the country there were 762 recorded tornados resulting in a total of 15 persons killed. Only five states, Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, and Oregon had a tornado-free 1986. Of the remaining 45 states Texas was the hardest hit with 131 tornados, followed by Nebraska with 54, Florida with 53, Oklahoma with 47, and Iowa with 42. Officials cite better preparation and civil defense planning as being partly responsible for the low number of fatalities in 1986.

Climate and Crime—When are you more likely to become a crime victim, when it's hot or cloudy, when it's sunny or humid, or when the moon is full?

According to a recent study by two criminology professors, crime rates go up when it is cloudy or hot outside. The crime rate drops as the outside humidity rises.

The professors, David Hirschel of the University of North Carolina, and Steven Lab of the University of Alabama, programmed a computer to compare the crime and weather statistics for an unnamed southeastern city over a one-year period. Nine weather variables were included in the program. Of those, only the degree of cloudiness, the humidity, and the temperature showed a relationship to the crime rate. According to the professors the relationship between criminal activity and the weather "appears to be indisputable." The study also showed no relationship between crime and the phase of the moon. •

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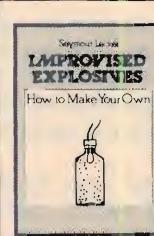


THE AR-15/M16: A PRACTICAL GUIDE

by Duncan Long

The AR-15 is so revered that nations around the globe have adopted it—or many of its features—for use by their own armies. Now comes the definitive book on the rifle that has been the inspiration for so many modern assault rifles. Should you wish to build your own AR-15/M16 or convert it to auto fire, Duncan Long supplies you with lists of parts and tools needed for the task and detailed step-by-step instructions. Virtually any accessory you may wish to acquire for your AR-15 is listed. Exploded diagrams for field stripping are included, as are parts suppliers and sources for additional product information. Invaluable to the M16 owner, this comprehensive book also covers assembly and disassembly, conversion kits and modifications, troubleshooting, ammunition, combat use, military use and testing, night-vision equipment, and more. 8½ x 11, softcover, illus., photos, 168 pp.

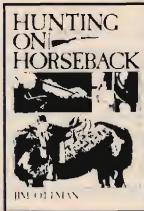
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by Seymour Lecker

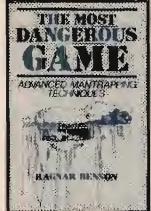
From a former top explosives expert with the Israeli Army comes a manual that presents ten simple yet powerful formulas for explosives and incendiaries that give the basis for making bombs, booby traps and mines. Learn to obtain or make the needed chemicals, or get substitutes. For information only! 5½ x 8½, softcover, illus., 80 pp. \$10.00



HUNTING ON HORSEBACK

by Jim Ottman

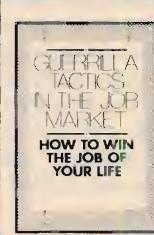
The horseback hunt—glorious days spent moseying up and down back-country trails in search of that trophy buck you've always dreamed about. Your trip can be this idyllic with the advice offered here, including tips on equipment, weapons, ammo, getting in shape for the trip and hooking up with a reputable outfitter. 5½ x 8½, softcover, 62 photos, illus., 160 pp. \$16.95



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by Ragnar Benson

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by Dale Martin

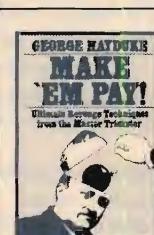
Meat in the freezer and money in the bank. Trapping can be a rewarding and lucrative hobby—even more so when you have the satisfaction of making and setting the traps yourself. More than just colorful outdoor lore, the traps, snares, and pathguards detailed here can be constructed out of the most basic materials, keeping your expenses down, and your net profits—and enjoyment—up. Includes pest snares, large animal snares, and transplant traps for moving animals from one area to another, plus camp alarms that alert you to intruders, and deadly pathguards that could save your life. 5½ x 8½, softcover, illus., 72 pp. \$8.00



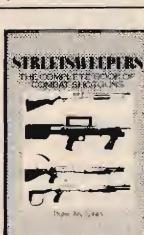
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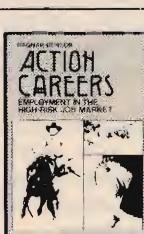


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TO THE POINT

Firearms freedom and responsibility . . .

WHILE I don't intend to write only about gun issues in this column—there are so many other important subjects to discuss—I want to follow up this time on what I wrote about in last month's To The Point.

In the June To The Point, titled "On being caught unprepared," I talked about a true incident in which three apparently drunk young men, apparently thinking they were playing a joke on a friend whose home is next to mine and very similar in design, angrily pounded on my front door in the middle of the night in a pouring rainstorm demanding that we open up and threatening violence if we did not.

On this rather frightening occasion, awakened from a deep sleep, I discovered I had locked away and otherwise secured my defensive handgun and for a few terrifying moments, feared for my life and the lives of other members of my family. The whole incident ended peacefully, fortunately for all concerned, when the trio of apparent assailants suddenly realized they'd picked the wrong home and scurried off to try their fun on their friend next door.

As I said in last month's column, I don't want to be caught in such a situation again without a means of self protection. My desire to have a loaded, round-chambered, cocked .45 auto pistol in my hands to greet these men, even as it turned out that they were pranksters, probably seems extreme and perhaps even crazy to the anti-gun types. For many of the readers of this magazine, however, it was probably not so extreme a desire.

Nevertheless, I feel compelled to add a few thoughts on the subject, most particularly on the concepts of firearm ownership safety and responsibility, which I did not mention in last month's column.

Maybe to some, my desire to respond (without opening the door) to these men, even though they turned out to be pranksters, with a loaded handgun would seem an overreaction to the situation. But the right to be secure in one's home is a fundamental right dating back at least to the English common law on which much of our present law is based.

Still, there's no question in my mind that such a situation is a very tense and volatile one in which overreaction and haste, anger and fear, can lead to tragedy. And this brings to mind the issue of firearms responsibility.

Owning and using a gun for self defense and the defense of one's family and property is a precious freedom for Americans which citizens of many other countries do

not have. We as firearms owners and users must constantly be aware of this great privilege and guard against the endless efforts of anti-gun forces to take it away from us.

To be sure, a gun is no panacea—no cure-all to every dangerous situation we find ourselves in. It is no guarantee of safety and security. It is insurance, an aid, an improved chance of survival when we are confronted by danger.

Another point: the harm done by the gun-owning fools, the big men or macho men, and, of course, the crazies. Every time someone who owns guns uses them in a rude, arrogant, reckless or hostile manner, the rest of the gun-owning public is hurt by the negative publicity in our substantially anti-gun media. This publicity is very powerful propaganda and the gun grabbers, the anti-gun fanatics, make every effort to use it for maximum effect in getting anti-gun laws passed.

If you've shot up road signs, violated no-shooting laws, threatened someone with a gun without having done so only with cause and only to use the expression, "in the gravest extreme" of life-threatening situations, you have hurt yourself and the rest of us.

In today's often fast-paced, troubled, high-pressure and demanding world in which we all must survive and cope, it's all too easy to lose your head under pressure or in response to hostility from others, hostility that usually is not life-threatening. This could be me, this could be you.

Possessing a gun for use in self defense can present a dilemma for the gun owner.

Striving to avert violence, overreaction, needless aggression and reckless behavior can be extremely difficult at times for many of us, given the pressures and stresses we experience in our daily lives.

Possessing a firearm is an awesome responsibility, not only to yourself, but to the rest of the gun-owning public. Don't be irresponsible and make trouble for the rest of us. As difficult as it can be to our pride and our integrity to back down or away from a potentially violent confrontation, such action is always the most responsible and the most intelligent course to follow whenever possible.

Don't be stupid, reckless or inconsiderate with firearms. Think about what you're doing with your guns at all times. Observe strict safety precautions and act responsibly, and you'll have your guns in most situations in which you would really need them—*Jim Benson*.

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SURVIVAL SELF TEST

By Glenn A. Anderson

Copyright, 1987, Glenn A. Anderson

There is considerably more to the preservation of meat and vegetables than depending on commercial electricity to power the family freezer. This month's Self Test has been developed from *Back to Basics*, published by the Reader's Digest Association, Inc., Pleasantville, New York/Montreal. The Self

Test contains questions concerning survival related information on the topic of: the preservation of vegetables, fruits, and meats. Test yourself, then obtain a copy of *Back to Basics*, and study those areas where the Self Test has revealed your weaknesses.

1. Of the following methods of preserving food, which results in the least loss of vitamins and minerals?
 - A. Live storage.
 - B. Drying.
 - C. Canning.
 - D. Salt curing.
2. Live storage of fruits and vegetables is most effective during what seasons?
 - A. Summer and Fall.
 - B. Fall thru Winter.
 - C. Summer only.
 - D. Spring only.
3. In order to be carried out successfully, live storage depends on:
 - A. Low temperature, low humidity.
 - B. High temperature, high humidity.
 - C. Low temperature, high humidity.
 - D. High temperature, low humidity.
4. The floor of an old fashioned root cellar is best constructed of:
 - A. Packed earth.
 - B. Concrete.
 - C. Slatted boards.
 - D. Gravel.
5. The boiling water bath method of canning is best suited for use with:
 - A. Low acid produce.
 - B. High acid produce.
 - C. Green leafy vegetables.
 - D. Starch bearing crops.
6. Of the following, which should be preserved by pressure canning?
 - A. Apples.
 - B. Berries.
 - C. Lima beans.
 - D. Tomatoes.
7. You must increase the length of time canned goods are left in a boiling water bath, or increase the pressure settings on a pressure canner when processing:
 - A. High acid garden produce.
 - B. Fruits such as cherries and plums.
 - C. At temperatures lower than 68 degrees F.
 - D. At altitudes of 1,000 feet above sea level.
8. Of the following, which describes the best storage conditions for canned goods?
 - A. A cool, dark place.
 - B. A warm, light place.
 - C. A cool, light place.
 - D. A warm, dark place.
9. When dry salting has been used to preserve food, what should you do to the food prior to consuming it?
 - A. Brush off the excess salt.
 - B. Wash the salt off under cold, running water.
 - C. Let the food soak in fresh water for 10-12 hours.
 - D. Add one quart of water and boil for 10-15 minutes.
10. The first step to take in brining produce is to:
 - A. Weight it down.
 - B. Cover it with water.
 - C. Add salt to it.
 - D. Blanch it.
11. Low-salt fermentation consists of:
 - A. Letting produce preserve itself in salt and its juices.
 - B. Blanching, brining, boiling and bottling.
 - C. Putting produce up in wooden kegs.
 - D. Extracting the alcohol from fresh produce.
12. Unless pickled produce is to be consumed quite soon after it has been processed, it should also be:
 - A. Pressure canned.
 - B. Canned by boiling bath water.
 - C. Brined and crocked.
 - D. Blanching and bottled.
13. The most common way(s) to preserve vitamin content and preserve flavor in produce to be dried is/are by:
 - A. Fermenting.
 - B. Heat processing.
 - C. Baking and browning.
 - D. Blanching and sulfering.
14. The optimum temperature recommended for drying produce is:
 - A. 140 degrees F.
 - B. 98.6 degrees F.
 - C. 52 degrees F.
 - D. 47 degrees F.
15. Indoor drying methods are preferable to outdoor drying methods because:
 - A. Sanitation is easier to maintain.
 - B. Sunlight destroys some vitamins.
 - C. Indoor drying is less work.
 - D. Outdoor drying is more complicated.
16. In order to make sure that no spoilage takes place in home dried food, it should be:
 - A. Sealed in tin cans.
 - B. Kept covered and crocked.
 - C. Pasteurized.
 - D. Steamed before serving.
17. Fresh meat can be hung to improve its flavor and texture. The key to this process is:
 - A. Maintaining a 33-40 degree temperature for a specific period of time.
 - B. Hanging the meat over the coals of the burned wood of a specific type of tree.
 - C. Keeping the meat suspended a specific distance from any moisture bearing surfaces.
 - D. Leaving the meat suspended until salt reaches into the bone marrow.
18. Meat which is canned by the cold pack method must be:
 - A. Brined.
 - B. Exhausted.
 - C. Cooked.
 - D. Charcoaled.
19. The only essential ingredient in curing meat is:
 - A. Skill.
 - B. Smoke.
 - C. Salt.
 - D. Patience.
20. For long term preservation, meat may be:
 - A. Cured only.
 - B. Smoked only.
 - C. Cured and hot smoked.
 - D. Cured and cold smoked.

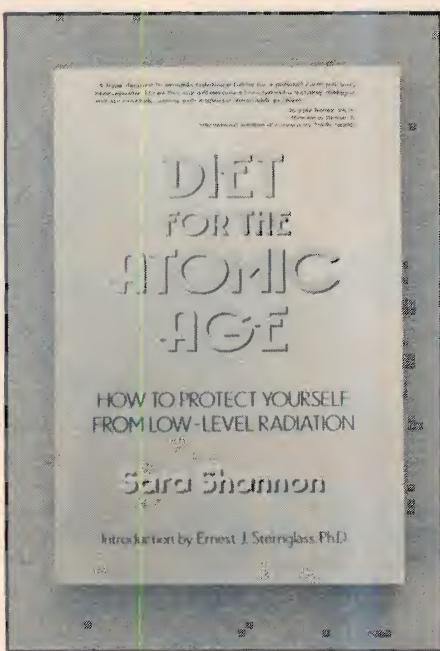
SCORING:

For each Survival Self Test question answered correctly, score yourself 5 points. Then add them up. If your total is:

Below 70 Sun dry everything.
70-80 Salt a few things away.
80-90 Can wha'cha can.
90-100 Live high off th' hog.

ANSWERS:

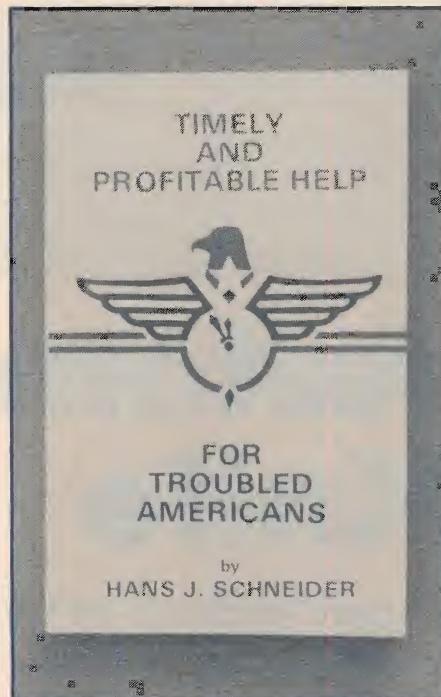
BOOK REVIEWS



Diet For The Atomic Age, by Sara Shannon; Avery Publishing Group, Inc., Dept. ASG, 350 Thorens Ave., Garden City Park, NY 11040; (516) 741-2155; 336 pages, paperback; \$8.95.

This book examines the growing problem of radiation in our environment and offers a rational course of action that any individual can follow. The author, a nutritionist who first became concerned about radiation dangers while living in New York City in 1979 during the Three Mile Island nuclear plant disaster, has thoroughly researched the subject and gives detailed information on the many and increasing sources of harmful radiation in our environment. She has gathered medical and scientific data that shows that certain foods and food supplements have protective properties that can safeguard you and your family from the insidious threat of radiation. She explains how and why these substances can help stave off the effects of radiation and gives recipes that maximize their protective effects. After discussing what radiation is and how it affects us, Shannon notes the many sources in the environment, not only from nuclear plants, radioactive wastes and nuclear weapons testing but microwave radiation from alarm systems, CB radios, cellular telephones, electronic games and radar devices, cigarette smoking and radon gas, to name some sources. Additionally, there is information on what foods to avoid to help increase protection from radiation, how to help keep your immune system strong and other ways to improve your chances. Chapters cover radiation in the environment, how radiation damages us,

survival of the fittest, your body's radio-protective system, foods to avoid, diet for the Atomic Age, supportive supplements, recipes and more.



Timely And Profitable Help For Troubled Americans, by Hans J. Schneider; World Wide Publishing Corp., Dept. ASGT, Box 105, Ashland, OR 97520; (503) 482-3800; 288 pages, paperback; \$8.95 plus 95 cents S&H. Check, money order or VISA/Mastercard.

What's ahead for the next few years? Another rapidly approaching stock market decline? A renewed soaring of precious metals and food prices? Increases in natural disasters? Major problems with the Social Security system? These are just a few of the concerns of the author, who is also a lecturer, economist, pilot, world traveler and son of a former multi-millionaire-industrialist. If you anticipate monetary collapse, a dictatorship and gun confiscation, among other calamities, you should read this book. In it the author reveals his plan for your freedom and survival during economic and civil or natural turmoil. Covered are such topics as self sufficiency, locating your place of refuge, independent energy sources, inflation-proof investments, alternative weaponry and defense tactics, yachting survival, barter items, food preservation and storage and much more. This is a most provocative and interesting work, whatever your beliefs and philosophy about survival.

(Continued on page 16)

HK 91/93/94



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Rugged outdoors tool or attractive conversation piece . . .

Staff Report

THE Model 120 automatic knife offers the sportsman, blade enthusiast or collector a number of features that make it a rugged outdoors tool or attractive conversation piece.

It's only one of 125 models of cutlery available from The Edge Company which specializes in outdoors and sport cutlery. Each Edge Company knife is sold with a full money-back guarantee of customer satisfaction. These knives are not sold in stores, but directly from The Edge Company, which will ship anywhere in the world. The Edge Company has offices in Phoenix, Portland and Brattleboro, Vermont and recently celebrated its fifth successful year with publication of its new full-color 1987 catalog.

The Model 120 is 8 1/2 inches overall with a 3 1/4-inch blade of 440 stainless steel tempered to 52 on the Rockwell hardness scale. The handle is brass and pearlite. It has a safety slide lock which prevents the blade from opening accidentally. The blade swings out and locks in place instantly with the press of a button for one-handed operation. Sold in legal kit form. Be sure to check and comply with all laws



governing possession of this knife before assembling it.

The Model 120 is \$49.95 from The Edge Company, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 826, Brattleboro, VT 05301; call toll free to order (800) 445-1021 and ask for the free full-color catalog of The Edge Company's other fine blades while you're at it. ●

A Home Radiation Detector

May Save Your Life — and Your Family

"The nearest nuclear power station is hundreds of miles away; therefore, I don't have to worry." WRONG. You do need to be concerned. It is possible to be exposed to radiation in your own home. HOW? Do you live near a major interstate highway or near a transcontinental rail line? If the answer is YES, then you can be living in a high risk area for a nuclear incident. The possibility of an accident carrying radioactive contaminated material is increasing. It is via these two means — interstate highways and transcontinental rail lines — that the transfer of radioactive material occur. The movement of ore from the refinery to the user or the transfer of waste to a storage dump site are occurring continuously. Over the last several years, a number of accidents have occurred. In one such accident a loss of 50 pounds of uranium was reported.

Will it happen again? If it does will it be down the street from me? How can I protect myself?

These questions will be plaguing society for years to come. Self protection from exposure may not be totally possible; however, the duration of the exposure can be shortened by having immediate knowledge of an increase in the level of radiation. Our public officials will notify us of any potential problems, but how quickly can they react? immediately? 5 minutes? 10 minutes? 30 minutes?—an hour? Early detection allows you to move **your** family to a safer environment sooner, thereby shortening the length of the exposure.

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Just as your smoke detector will warn you of a possible life and death catastrophe from smoke and fire, **SURVIVOR** will **WARN** you of a significant increase in the level of radiation. **SURVIVOR** is a quartz controlled digital processor monitoring the level of radiation around **YOU**. As the threat of higher levels of radiation occur, **SURVIVOR** will warn you **NOW**. **SURVIVOR** will detect Alpha and Beta particles, Gamma X-rays, and **high** concentrated levels of radon gas.



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SURVIVOR is designed to be plugged into any 110 volt outlet. A green LED will tell you it is looking for an increase in the radiation level. Should you lose 110 volt power, a rechargeable battery will take over for continued protection. At that time the green LED will go out and a red flickering LED will tell you of the 110 volt power failure. To test the alarm, simply push the test button on the top.

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counter in determining the direction of the radiation source by an increase in the click rate, thereby allowing you to move in the opposite direction to a safer environment.

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There is only one way to get **SURVIVOR**, from the factory. By selling direct to the customer and eliminating the middle man, we can offer **YOU** high quality for less money. Commercial detectors without automatic alarm functions sell for over \$500.00. Try **SURVIVOR** at NO risk. Take the first 30 days with **SURVIVOR** as a test. If you are not completely satisfied, return it for a **FULL** refund. **SURVIVOR** is also backed with a one year limited warranty on both parts and labor.

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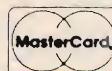
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cleaning gear, while the forearm area has ribs for extra gripping power. And, unlike wood, the spaceage plastic doesn't absorb water or crack with humidity. At only \$57.95 (M70) to \$59.95 (Carbine) this Folding Stock converts the Marlin into an awesome looking ranch rifle, plinker, or survival gun—that performs! For more information see your gun dealer or write to: Ram-Line, Inc., Dept. ASG, 15611 W. 6th Avenue, Golden, CO 80401.

Buck's Titanium Lockblade



The Titanium (Model 18600) is the newest folding lockblade from Buck Knives. Use of titanium for the skeletonized side panels makes it surprisingly lightweight and as close to corrosion free as you can get. Designed to be field stripped for cleaning, the Titanium comes with a hex-wrench attached—the only tool required. Used with the belt clip provides, no sheath is needed. The 3 3/4-inch clip blade is high carbon, high chrome, rust resistant steel, tempered to hold an edge. Length closed is 5 inches. See your knife dealer.

Malaysian Backpack



This new surplus item from Survival Inc. (SI) is compact and rugged, ideal for a day trip to the woods or mountains or for longer journeys. It's made of heavy duty moisture-proof nylon, with large main cargo compartment that has a waterproof collar. Webbed nylon adjustable shoulder straps that are 2 inches wide for maximum comfort and wear. Accessory pouch on the outside. Reinforced flap with tie-down straps to cover and secure the pack and

lots of extra straps on the outside to secure extra gear. The pack measures 10 inches wide, 12 inches tall and 5 inches deep. Cargo pocket measures 6 by 6 by 3 inches. But these are just the outside measurements. You can really stuff this bag to hold more gear. OD in color. Price is \$14.95 plus \$2 S&H, two packs \$28 postpaid from SI, Dept. ASG, 18239 S. Figueroa St., Gardena, CA 90248; (213) 324-8855; outside California (800) 533-7415.

Silhouette Pellet Trap



A rugged pellet (not BBs) trap, with four resettable silhouette targets for indoor and outdoor family target shooting, has been introduced by Benjamin Air Rifle Co. After being "knocked down," the duck, ram, turkey and boar silhouettes are reset automatically by a magnetic mechanism, triggered by a shot to a fifth, round target. Measuring 18 inches wide x 12 inches high x 13 inches deep, the trap is made of 14-gauge steel with sturdy welded fabrication and black-on-yellow color scheme for maximum visibility. Suggested retail price of the trap is \$61.80. For more information, contact Benjamin Air Rifle Co., Dept. ASG, 2600 Chicory Road, Racine, WI 53403, phone (414) 554-7900.

Black Chrome Police Knife



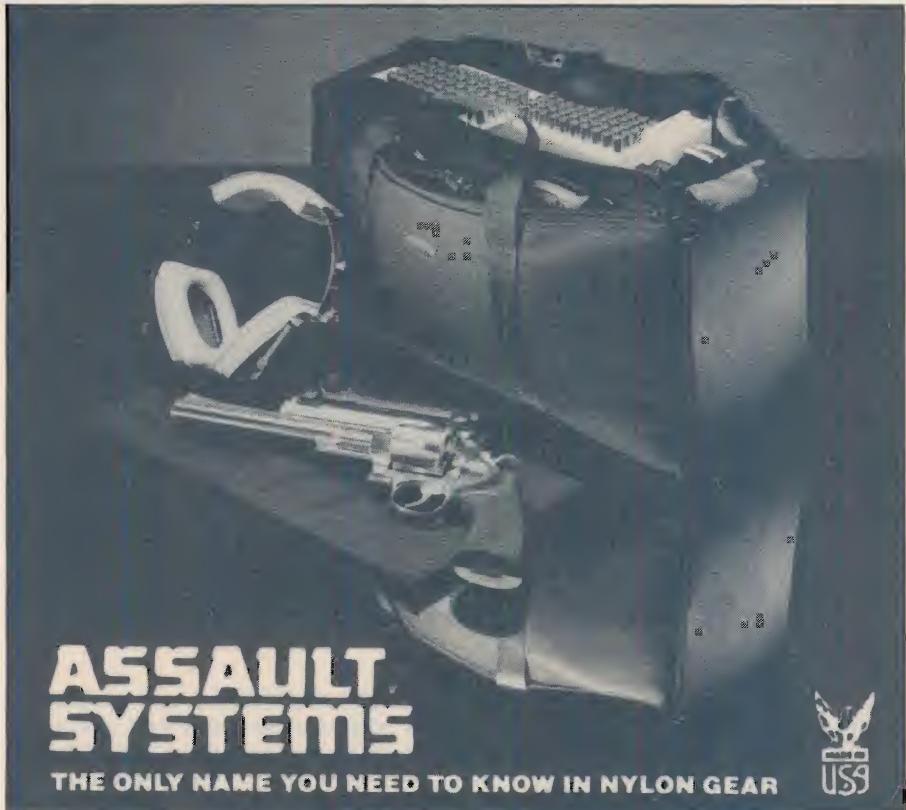
Syderco, Inc. introduces its new black chrome sulfide coated Police Model Clipit pocket lockback folder. This is the same famous Police Model from Spyderco as the original except it's made from G-2 Chrome molybdenum stainless steel which is quite a bit tougher than the still tough stainless steel of the original Police Model, and the entire knife is coated with the black chrome sulfide which holds up well. Serrated blade is 3 3/4 inches long; the knife is 5 1/4 inches closed. Available in right- or left-hand models. With its dull matte black finish, the black coated Police Model is gaining in popularity with law enforcement personnel as well as the general public. This knife retails for \$80 and you can buy it at your favorite blade dealer or from Spyderco directly. Contact Spyderco, Inc., Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 800, Golden, CO 80402-0800; (303) 279-8383 or toll free at (800) 525-7770. Ask for Model 1007R-SER.

B Ready Radio



Free Energy Systems Inc., of Lenni, Pennsylvania, has recently added a solar powered radio to its line of photovoltaic products. This radio will provide the user with hours of power before the need to recharge occurs. Keep your radio on a window sill or under a light and it will always "B ready." This ever ready radio will replace the need of expensive batteries saving you dollars every time you turn it on. Wireless sound is for everyone!!! Use it for fun, on vacations, camping trips, boat trips, use it for emergencies, power failers, remote locations construction sites. Never a need to plug in or be without information during an emergency. Free energy's "B ready" radio will keep you tuned in at all times. The radio is \$99.50. For more information contact Free Energy Systems Inc., Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 3030, Lenni, PA 19052; (215) 459-2158.

Assault Systems 1987 Catalog



Assault Systems announces their 1987 catalog, filled with state-of-the-art nylon products. Weapon cases, holsters, gear bags, clothing and luggage. Over 250 items. All featuring the exclusive unconditional guarantee. Gear that's been in use

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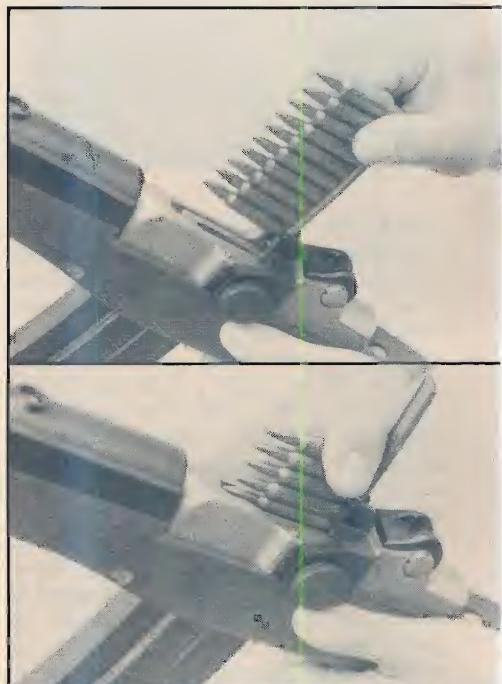
Staff Report



The Top Loader before installation.

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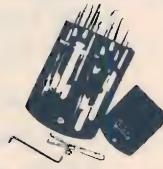
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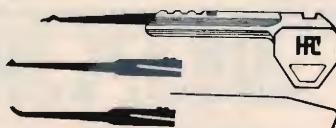
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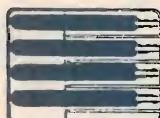
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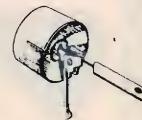


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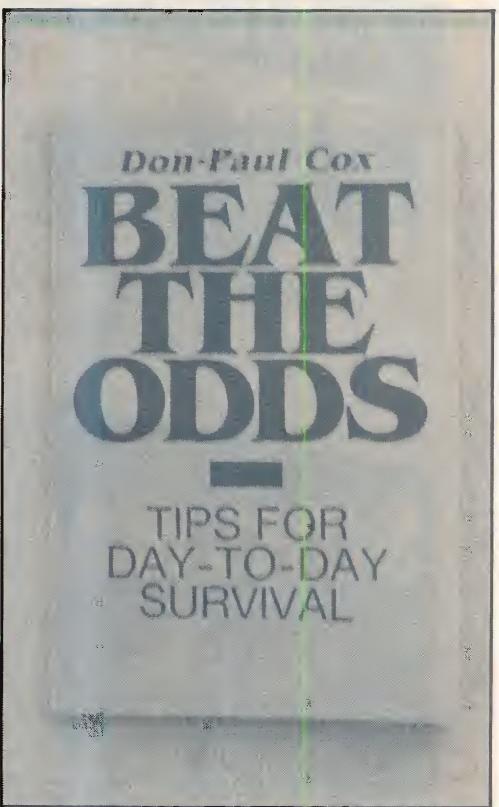


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Book Reviews

(Continued from page 9)



Beat The Odds—Tips For Day-To-Day Survival, by Don-Paul Cox; Paladin Press, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 1307, Boulder, CO 80306; (303) 443-7250; 160 pages, paperback; \$10 plus \$3 S&H.

"We all move in and out of danger zones with increasing frequency," observes the author. "Each and every day in the U.S. about 50 people are gunned down, stabbed or beaten to death, 50 people are killed by drunk drivers, 275 die of lung cancer, 17 drown, 17 are burned in fires, 250 are raped, 2,500 have their cars stolen, 7,500 have their homes burglarized, 5,500 are bitten by dogs and 1,600 are robbed." The overwhelming majority of this suffering can be prevented, Cox says, if potential victims can be taught the principles of dealing with danger zones. The purpose of the book is to expose these danger zones and provide the essential information needed to avoid trouble and death. Chapters cover mishaps and disasters with airplanes, vehicles, boats, bombs, dog attacks, drunk drivers, earthquakes, fire, floods, guns, kidnapping, lightning, muggers, nuclear war, poison, rape, sexually transmitted diseases, shark attacks and tornados. There's information on safety for children, first aid and home security. While no one book can give all information available for the most safety and security, this book offers some briefly stated yet valuable information that you might not have been aware of. It would be a good addition to a survival library.



By Lt. Col. T.E. Bearden (Retired)

Fer-De-Lance: A Briefing On Soviet Scalar Electromagnetic Weapons, by T.E. Bearden, Lt. Col., Ret.; Telsa Book Company, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 1685, Ventura, CA 93002; (805) 643-0432; 255 pages, paperback; \$27.50 plus \$1.50 S&H.

For three decades, contends the author, a retired U.S. Army officer, the Soviet Union has been developing, deploying and testing eerie new scalar electromagnetic (electrogravitational) weapons which, until now, have not been understood by Western scientists. These weapons are said to be so powerful that they could destroy all life on earth if they are not controlled. The book presents the basic concepts of these frightful new weapons, some of the major types available, the alarming nature of their effects, and startling evidence of their widespread use by the Soviets. The author goes on to assert that the Soviets have been committing acts of war against the U.S. and other countries in secretly testing these awesomely destructive devices, including the destruction of the Arrow DC-8 on Dec. 12, 1985 that killed 250 American military personnel, and even interference in the U.S. space program by destroying the space shuttle Challenger and other rockets and satellites launched by NASA. Bearden urges that the U.S. develop scalar EM defenses at the utmost speed, and then reach an agreement with the Soviets restricting use of the weapons. He states, however, that soon many other nations will be able to have such devices and contends this threatens humanity unless steps are taken to curb their use.

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United Kingdom. Anti-terrorism authority Peter Eliot shows you numerous weapons and tactics used by instructors there in teaching bodyguards and other security personnel how to repel terrorist attacks, free hostages and escape from terrorist ambushes. The instruction employs the use of live ammunition, powerful plastic explosives, stun grenades and special weapons and ammunition. You'll see a rescue team boldly gain access to dangerous places where simulated hostages are being held and effect rescues. The tape also offers some common sense travel safety tips to help you avoid a terrorist attack. This is a good video for anyone interested in anti-terrorism. •

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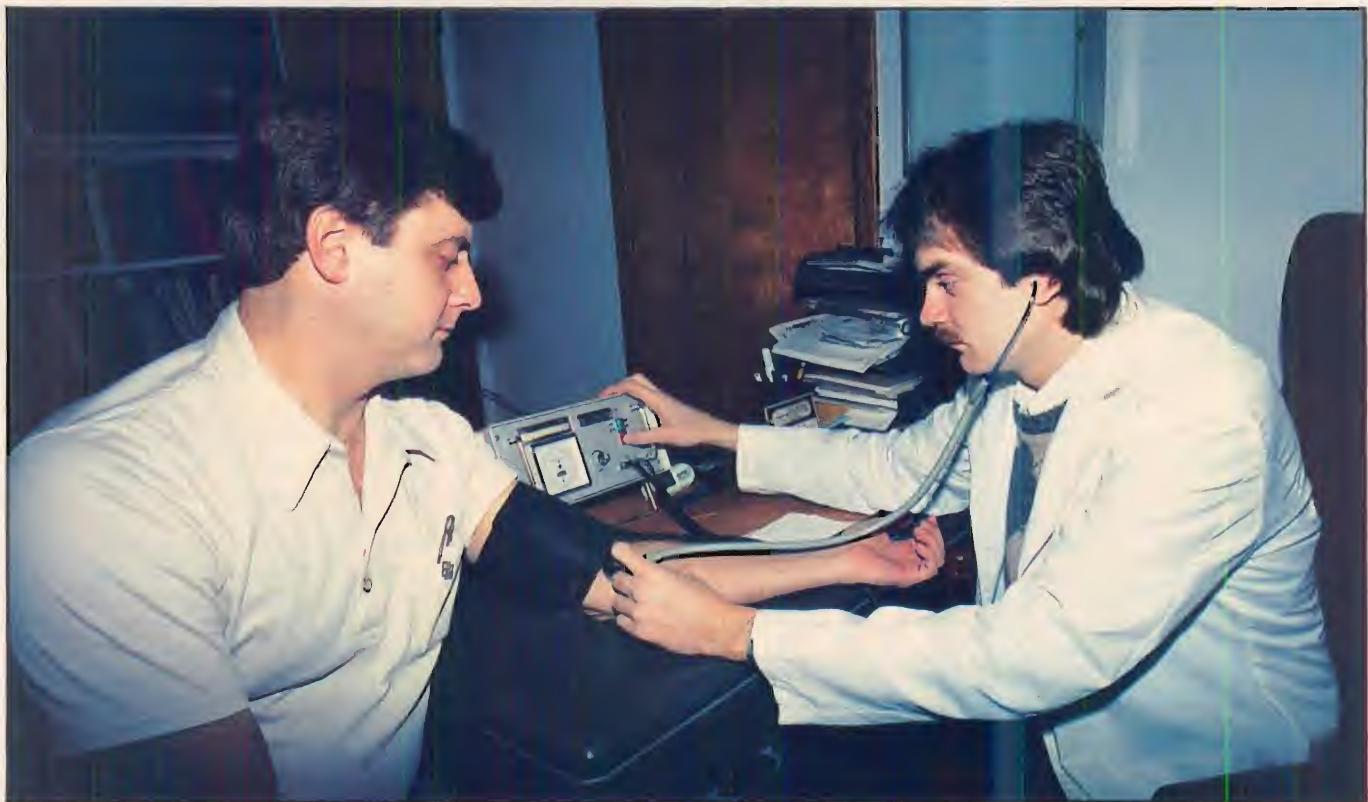
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Cramps, Exhaustion, Stroke:

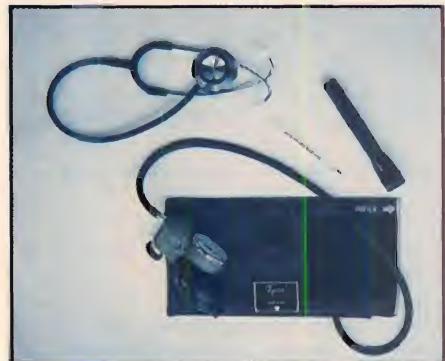


Matthew Dvorchak, M.D. takes the author's blood pressure in Matthew's clinic. In an emergency situation, the location is usually far from ideal and stress on the examiner is considerable. Learn to take blood pressure readings so that in emergencies the procedures become secondary.

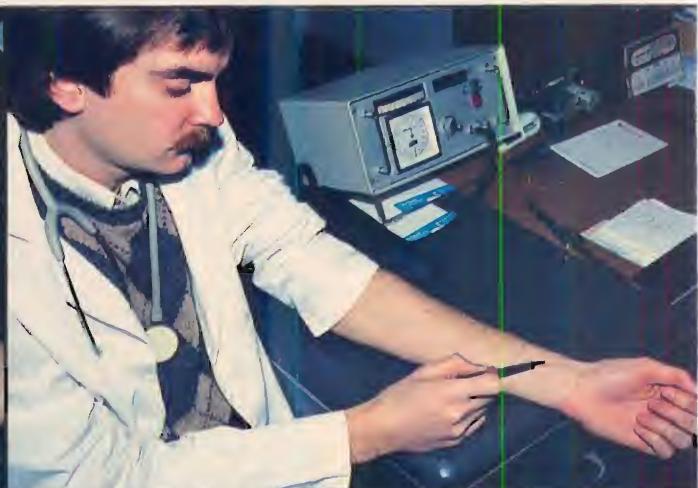
Heat Disorders

First aid for disorders associated with high temperatures and humidity . . .

By George E. Dvorchak, Jr., M.A., M.D.



Basic equipment for taking blood pressure is a stethoscope, blood pressure cuff, flashlight and thermometer. A good first aid course can help you learn how to use this equipment effectively.



Dr. Dvorchak points to his brachial artery, above left, and to his radial artery, above right. You will know you have found these arteries when pulsation or beats can be felt under your second or third fingers.

ON a recent trip to Mexico, I was called upon to assist a tourist who was suffering from heat exhaustion. What astounded me about this disorder was not only didn't anyone recognize the problem, but that no one knew how to assist.

With the hot and humid summer months approaching, I hope that this basic presentation will serve as a guide to those of you who could assist someone who is suffering from one of three disorders brought on by excessive heat.

Clinically, these syndromes can be separated. Yet, for all practical purposes, each disorder overlaps into one or more of the others.

Before attempting to outline specific disorders we need a list of risk factors that generally can pertain to all.

RISK FACTORS:

AGE:

- Over 50 (some authorities state over 40): In general, the longer we survive, the more medicines we have taken to assure continued survival. Also, as we get older, our bodies deteriorate. Medical disorders such as heart disease are more common with advancing age. In addition, the side effects of various medications can slowly creep up on us.

- The Very Young: The sad thing concerning this category is the very young do not have control of their own lives. Many times adults, without thinking, put children into dangerous heat situations. An example of this is locking a child in a closed car on a hot day while an adult shops for a half hour or so. This situation is often repeated by thoughtless pet owners.

ENVIRONMENT: Indoor or outdoor temperatures greater than 90 degrees F. or relative humidity greater than 60 percent present great risks.

SPORTS: Strenuous exercise on hot and humid days is dangerous to someone who is out of shape. A competitive drive in the wrong person at the wrong time could be fatal.

EMPLOYMENT: A workplace that is poorly ventilated and has high temperatures is dangerous for one's health.

MEDICATION: Certain drugs can make us more vulnerable to high temperatures. Examples are:

DIURETICS: These drugs increase the rate of urine flow by promoting a net loss of sodium ions and water from the body. Urination obviously causes a loss in fluid or body water. This along with high environment temperatures (perspiration) can lead to a state of dehydration.

ANTICHOLINERGICS: Included in this category are many over-the-counter sleeping pills, cold medications as well as atropine, belladonna, scopolamine, etc. In high doses these medications can induce disorientation, confusion, hallucinations, drowsiness, warm dry skin, fever, etc. They also decrease the flow of saliva.

Heat Disorder Comparisons

(This is what is usually present)

	Heat Cramps	Heat Exhaustion	Heat Stroke
Skin	Cool & moist from excess sweating	cool, clammy & pale	dry, hot, and flushed Ashen gray with shock
Pupils	Normal size	Dilated	Dilated
Body Odor	Normal	Normal	Offensive
Body Temp.	Within normal range to slightly elevated	Within normal range to slightly elevated or subnormal	Rapidly increasing rectal temperature greater than 104 F. (40 C.)
Pulse	strong & rapid	weak & rapid	at first rapid, later weak
Blood Pressure	Within normal limits for that person	low for that person	at first elevated, later low
Muscle Cramps	severe causing pain	Not present	Not present
Signs	Muscle twitching sometimes present Faintness Profuse sweating	Sometimes intense thirst and in others not; weakness, muscle incoordination, Delirium & coma in severe conditions	Central Nervous System dysfunction may be manifested as: seizures, confusion, delirium, disorientation unconsciousness. Stomach pains & headache also present at times
Severity	least severe	Could progress to heat stroke	Severe, a medical emergency

ANTIPSYCHOTIC TRANQUALIZERS: Large doses of these drugs may lead to somnolence, stupor and coma. Sodium depletion and polyuria (frequent urination) are adverse reactions that help deplete the body of fluid.

ALCOHOL: Alcohol is a sedative-hypnotic. High doses can lead to impaired psycho-motor performance and faulty judgment. These can be especially dangerous in an extremely hot or cold environment. we need our wits about us to survive in environmental extremes.

MISCELLANEOUS: Other contributing factors are: Obesity; Dressing in warm restrictive clothing on a warm, humid day; Restricting the fluids that are necessary to replace electrolytes lost by sweating, etc.; Lack of sleep and excessive fatigue; Physical or mental illnesses. Various medications used can have side effects that must be monitored; Vomiting and diarrhea that accompany many illnesses deplete the body fluids; Poor nutrition; Those with defective sweating mechanisms due to medical or congenital reasons; Acclimatization to heat usually results after 8 to 10 days of exposure to high temperatures. But be careful! This helps, but it isn't an absolute protection from heat disorders, especially if you fall into some of the above categories.

THERMOREGULATION: Our bodies normally product heat through the metabolism of foods we eat. The liver and skeletal muscles are also important factors since they are two organ sources of heat. This heat is used by our body to maintain a more or less constant temperature. Since

our parents first took our temperature when we were sick, the number 98.6 degrees or 99 degrees meant something. The average normal oral body temperature ranges between 96.8 to 99.3 degrees F. or 36 to 37.4 degrees C. If a rectal or vaginal reading is taken, then add 0.5 degrees C. or 1 degree F. to the above ranges. The normal axillary or arm pit temperatures is 0.5 degrees C. or 1 degree F. lower than the oral. Exact? No! This is partly due to a simple factor of time. The time of the day can make a difference in the temperature recorded.

A person's temperature is usually lowest in the early morning after a good night's restful sleep and higher in the late afternoon at the peak of his activity. In medicine very little is exact and temperature is no exception.

The proper body temperature is maintained due to the influence of a part of the brain. Thermo receptors throughout the body send messages to the brain where the hypothalamus or the heat regulating center of the central nervous system is located. Depending on the body's temperature, various body processes are set into motion which activate heat-gaining or heat-losing mechanisms to bring the core body temperature back to normal. All of this depends on the hypothalamus and thermoreceptors being intact.

An example of one of the many mechanisms the body uses to reduce a rising temperature is the process of sweating. The body can withstand high temperatures as long as sweating continues, and the water/sodium lost in the sweat is replaced.

Heat Disorders

In simple terms, this is one example of how the body copes with thermoregulation.

The next section discusses, compares and evaluates heat disorders.

HEAT DISORDERS:

HEAT CRAMP: This anomaly usually follows exercise and is the disorder causing

the least problems. It is characterized by painful spasms of the voluntary (skeletal) muscles. The muscles which are usually

(Continued on page 69)

Taking Vital Signs

BLOOD PRESSURE:

If you have the equipment and can take a systemic arterial blood pressure do it and record your findings along with the time. Blood pressure is a cyclic phenomenon and is measured in millimeters of mercury. The measurement is expressed as a ratio of systolic (as 120) over the diastolic (as 80). Therefore, a generally normal value can be recorded as 120/80 mm. Hg. This number is only a guide since factors as age, etc., dictate what is considered normal for a specific person. The high number or systolic pressure is the force with which blood is pumped when the heart muscle is contracting. The diastolic pressure or low number is the blood pressure level during the time that the heart muscle is relaxed between contractions.

General Technique: Evenly wrap a totally deflated cuff firmly around the arm with the lower margin of the cuff about an inch above the antecubital fossa. This is the bend opposite the elbow. Make sure that the center of the rubber inflatable bag inside the cuff is over the brachial artery.

While applying pressure to the radial artery with your second and third fingers, as you would when taking a pulse, inflate the cuff to about 30 mm of mercury above that reading at which time the pulse disappears. Now slowly deflate the cuff while both fingers are still compressing the radial artery. When the pulse again reappears, this reading is known as the Palpatory Systolic Pressure.

With a stethoscope, press its bell or diaphragm over the brachial artery located in the antecubital fossa just below the cuff. Now inflate the cuff about 30 mm of mercury above the level that the radial pulse disappears. Now gradually deflate the bag. When you hear a beating, remember it since this is the systolic pressure reading. Continue to deflate the cuff until the beating disappears, which is the diastolic

pressure reading. You just took the auscultatory blood pressure. Easy!

PULSE:

Again, this is a number that can vary from person to person. A normal rate can be 50 in a young athlete. Generally, a normal adult rate is 60 to 80 beats/minute and the rhythm regular.

Technique: Palpate or compress the radial artery under your second and third fingers while counting the beats for a minute or 30 seconds and multiply by two. While doing this, note whether the beats against your fingers are strong, weak, regular, or irregular.

RESPIRATIONS:

Normally this is 16 to 20 respirations per minute in an adult. In late childhood, 15 to 25 and 20 to 40 in early childhood.

TEMPERATURE:

Technique: Lubricate and insert a rectal thermometer about one and one-half inches into the anal canal. After three minutes note and record the reading. Be careful that the patient doesn't roll over and break it. You obviously don't want to hurt a patient when trying to help him so play it safe and never leave unattended someone you are examining, evaluating or administering first aid to.

READINGS:

Temperatures do vary with the time of day when they are taken. Oral: 96.8 to 99.3 degrees F. or 36 to 37.4 degrees C. Rectal: 97.8 to 100.3 degrees F. or 36.5 to 37.9 degrees C.

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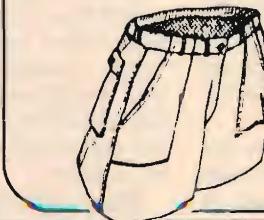
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Active, Passive:

Night Vision Devices

The cloak of darkness is vanishing for those who have used the night to hide in . . .

By Duncan Long



Hydra Systems' Stingray Mk5 Laser mounted on an AR-15.



Ecalibur's AN/PVS-2 on an AR-15 Sporter I. Note special mount.

TODAY, modern electronics can actually help you to "see" as well in darkness as you do during the day. These scopes work well but do have some limitations: these scopes are expensive and are nearly useless in daylight and some—because of their size—are slow to bring into play and awkward to carry. Too, night vision equipment will often temporarily ruin the user's night vision in the eye(s) involved in sighting through the equipment. Finally, a night vision device has a glowing screen which can be seen for long distances if the rubber eye shield isn't used properly. Most owners of night vision equipment find that these problems are not hard to live with in return for being able to see in the dark, however.

Two types of night vision devices are available on the market, passive and active. Active devices use some sort of beam to illuminate objects seen. Passive devices use available light. Both types of devices come in a variety of models from rifle scopes to night vision goggles and hand-held units.

For many, the night vision rifle scope is the first choice of equipment. You should plan on a lot of gunsmith work if you have any rifle other than standard military issue. In the U.S., "off the shelf" night vision scope mounts are only available for some types of rifles—generally the M1-A1, M-14, and AR-15 are the easiest rifles to mount night vision scopes on. A.R.M.S. manufactures an M16 universal scope bases which are also useful with AR-15 rifles as well as bases for the HK91/93 and FN-FAL rifles. They allow the user to switch from standard telescopic scopes to night vision equipment without a lot of hassle. Another useful accessory for use with the rifle scopes is the Cheekpiece from Cherokee Gun Accessories which will help the shooter get a proper cheek weld with his weapon.

Many night vision devices are classified with the Joint Electronics Type Designation System code which—once you get the hang of reading it—can give you a lot of information about the device you're studying.

The coding system usually has an "AN" prefix standing for "Army-Navy." This is followed by a group of letters which may include: "T" (Transportable—a large, bulky unit), "A" (Active system unit—probably using an infrared light source), "V" (Visible light spectrum—usually a passive unit), "S" (weapon's Scope—made for rifle or other weapon mounting), and/or "P" (Portable—relatively lightweight). Numerals designate the model in the series with a letter following the number being used for later improved versions of the same model. Thus, an AN/PVS-3B would be the Army-Navy Portable Visible-spectrum Scope-mounted Model 3 (improved version) night vision device.

Active devices date back to World War 2 when both sides started equipping special troops with night vision equipment. The U.S. created the infrared M3 Sniper-scope and the Germans fielded the Vampir sight.

With the use of solid-state electronic parts active night vision devices are a lot smaller than the WW2-vintage scopes but still are slightly heavier than passive devices and have smaller ranges because they supply their own source of infrared light to illuminate the viewing area. The infrared light and the optical system that turns the reflected infrared light into a visible image both eat up a lot of battery power which means batteries are often heavy and don't last as long as those on passive systems. Too, high levels or ambient light, fog, or rain can greatly degrade the viewing range of active devices. The biggest drawback, however, with active systems is the fact that they can be seen by anyone with either an active or passive night viewing scope.

Active equipment is less expensive than passive equipment and is well suited for some types of use such as with goggles for drivers whose vehicles are equipped with infrared headlights.

The thermal or infrared band used by active systems is actually the same as radiated heat. Thus, anything that gives off heat can—in theory—be seen with a thermal imaging system more sophisticated than those of the active units. Such a device could "see" through a flimsy cover of vegetation perhaps up to 10 yards into an edge of a wooded area. Though not cur-

(Continued on page 54)



ABOVE—Varo's AIM/G2-3 Goggle Weaponsight System is a hybrid that combines the aiming mount on the rifle with night vision goggles.



ABOVE—Varo's night vision goggles allow hands-free vision in the dead of night.

LEFT—Varo's handheld surveillance system for observation or photography.



LEFT & LEFT BELOW—Besides being 20% accurate, the folding stock model AK-47 from Moscow Arms that was tested functioned reliably and was able to use with the stock either extended or folded.



BELOW—The stock can be folded or extended quickly without removing the 30-round magazine.



The test AK-47 is shown here next to a surplus communist blue SKS semi-automatic. Weapons like these were used by communist troops in Vietnam.



The unique multiple break of the AK-47.



Rugged, Reliable, Accurate:

Mitchell Arms AK-47s

Manufactured in Yugoslavia to Soviet military specifications . . .

By Jim Benson



The fixed- and folding-stock AK-47s from Mitchell Arms with optional bayonet with scabbard and hanger, and four-pocket magazine pouch.

THE AK-47 assault rifle (*Avtomat Kalashnikova 1947g*), its descendants and variants, are undoubtedly the most widely used and best-known military shoulder weapons in the modern world.

The simplicity, ruggedness, reliability and effectiveness of the Kalashnikov family of assault rifles and light machine guns have been proven in many parts of the world and an estimated 30 to 50 million of these weapons have been produced since they were introduced, in the form of the AK-47, in 1947.

Mitchell Arms, Inc. of Santa Ana, California, is now importing a number of beautiful new AK-47 weapons which are military quality in every respect except that they are semiautomatic and conform to U.S. laws and import regulations.

The first of this new generation of AKs, manufactured in Yugoslavia to Soviet military specifications (except for semiauto parts), are chambered for the original Soviet 7.62 x 39mm cartridge, which is becoming popular in the U.S. and which is available from a growing number of U.S.



Standard accessories that come with each fixed- or folding-stock AK-47 from Mitchell Arms are military sling, plastic military issue gun oil bottle, container with cleaning brush and patch holder and cleaning rope. The container for cleaning brush and patch holder also serves as a T-handle for cleaning rod stored under the barrel.

and foreign ammunition manufacturers. Coming soon will be Mitchell Arms Yugoslav-made AKs chambered for the 7.62 x 51mm and 5.56 x 45mm NATO ammunition.

Mitchell Arms is distributing fixed-stock and folding-stock AK-47s, and the heavy barrel "RPK-47" semiauto version of the light machine gun (also in 7.62 x 39mm) with finned barrel and detachable bipod.

Additionally, Mitchell Arms is import-



Besides the AK-47s chambered for the Russian 7.62 x 39mm cartridge such as the folding-stock model shown at bottom (shown with 30-round and optional 75-round drum magazines), Mitchell Arms will soon be importing AK-47s chambered for the standard NATO cartridges: 7.62 x 51mm, center, and 5.56 x 45mm, top.

Mitchell Arms AK-47s

RIGHT—Here the test folding-stock model is partially field stripped. With the turning of a lever next to the rear sight the gas tube and upper forend are easily removed.

BELOW—The fixed-stock model with its thick rubber butt plate is more comfortable for sustained firing from the shoulder.



ing a Yugoslav countersniper semiautomatic rifle based on the famous Soviet Dragunov sniper rifle, the M-76 in 7.9mm caliber, and the M59 semiautomatic rifle, a version of the famous Soviet SKS rifle, in 7.62 x 39mm.

The AK-47s have real teak wood forends and butt stocks (except the folding stock AK-47 which features a steel folding butt stock). The wood buttstocks have thick rubber butt plates to cushion the shoulder when firing.

The rifles also have flip-up fluorescent night sights which are very effective in the dark.

Any of the AK models, including the RPK-47, can interchangeably use the standard 30-round steel magazines as well as optional 75-round drum magazines available from Mitchell Arms.

The staff of *American Survival Guide* was loaned an AK-47 folding stock model for evaluation from Mitchell Arms. We were, to say the least, quite impressed with its functioning and performance during our testing of it.



LEFT—The military sling that comes with each AK-47 from Mitchell Arms is well made, comfortable and easily adjustable.



Although there wasn't time, due to other commitments, to do bench-rest accuracy testing with this rifle, a friend and I took the AK to an outdoors public shooting range and fired more than 100 rounds through it using a variety of ammunition. We used Chinese communist military surplus hardball ammunition, some Finnish Lapua hardball, some American PMC full metal jacketed and some aged Egyptian military surplus stuff.

Shooting from 50 yards in the standing and seated positions without a rest, we averaged about 5- and 6-inch groups. Not bad, we thought, realizing that with a bench rest and a little more familiarization with this weapon we would have considerably tighter groups.

Of all the ammo fired through the AK, there were only a couple of malfunctions and these were failures to fire the Egyptian ammo, which also wouldn't fire in a combloc SKS rifle we were using at the same time. This ammo was just too old and or ineffective, we concluded.

All in all, the AK functioned flawlessly when fired in either the stock-extended or stock-folded modes. The folding stock evolved from military paratrooper models of this weapon and is intended for use in the close quarters of armored vehicles and the like. The stock can be quickly folded or extended without removing the 30-round magazine. It allows for compact storage and ease of handling in tight quarters, such as in the cab of a pickup truck.

The 7.62 x 39mm cartridge is a powerful one and produces a fair amount of recoil. The unique muzzle compensator on these weapons helps reduce muzzle climb. The hard metal butt plate is not as easy on the shoulder as would be the rubber butt plate of the fixed-stock model, but either model is equally capable of sustained and accurate fire.

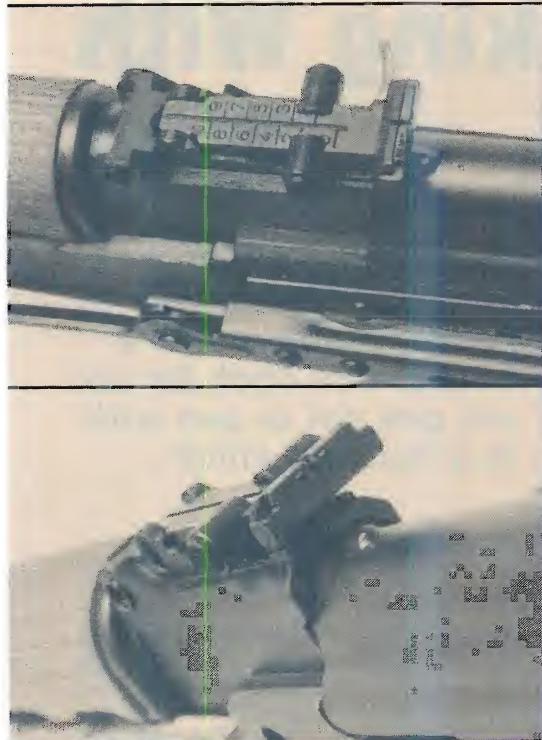
Accessories—Each AK-47 from Mitchell Arms comes with a cleaning rod stored



Optional bayonet and scabbard can be used as a wire cutter.

Mitchell Arms AK-47 Folding Stock Model: Tech Specs

Weight, with empty 30-rd magazine & sling	9 pounds
Length:	
With stock folded	26 inches
With stock extended	35 1/2 inches
Barrel	16 1/4 inches
Operation	gas, magazine fed, semi-automatic, closed bolt
Caliber	7.62 x 39mm (Russian)
Sights	Rear graduated to 1,000 meters, front post adjustable for elevation
Sight radius	15 1/2 inches
Magazine capacities	30-rd detachable box, 75-rd detachable drum
Stock material	Steel butt stock, teak forends and pistol grip
Finish	Matte blackmetal parts
Price, suggested retail	\$698
Importer/Distributor	Mitchell Arms, Inc., Dept. ASG, 3411 Lake Center Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92704; (714) 957-5711



The rear sight is the AKM type graduated in 100-meter increments to 1,000 meters. Front post sight is adjustable for elevation. Spring-operated flip-up fluorescent night sights front and rear facilitate use of the rifle in low light levels or darkness.



under the barrel, along with another cleaning tool, a rope that has weighted ends and a woven center so that a small cleaning patch can be inserted in the woven section and pulled through the barrel after leading either end of the rope through the barrel. The rope is pulled back and forth through the barrel until it's clean. The patches are changed frequently until they come out clean, just as when using a cleaning rod.

Also included with each AK-47 model is a metal container which serves as a holder

for the cleaning brush and patch holder as well as a handle for the cleaning rod, a military issue oil container which you can fill with your favorite gun oil, and a standard military sling for the rifle.

Optional accessories include spare parts and magazines, the 75-round drum magazines, a military bayonet with scabbard that together serve as a wire cutter, magazine pouch with shoulder strap and four-pockets for 30-round magazines, blank-firing attachment and the book *The AK47 Story*.

These AK-47s from Mitchell Arms are undoubtedly among the finest of this type available in the world—if not the finest. They are certainly the best we have come across. These are indeed powerful, smoothly functioning, simple to operate and accurate weapons. The 7.62 x 39mm (Russian) cartridge has a lot of knock-down power and these rifles are formidable weapons.

Beauty, ease and simplicity of operation, smooth functioning and very effective firepower. That's what you get with the Mitchell Arms' AK-47s. You couldn't ask for more. For more information, contact your gun dealer, or Mitchell Arms, Inc., Dept. ASG, 3411 Lake Center Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92704; (714) 957-5711. ●



Two spring-loaded plungers must be depressed to remove the receiver cover. The folding stock is extended by depressing the plunger under the rear sling swivel.

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*Attn. Collectors & Sportsmen: Though legal in parts form, in certain areas the completion of these kits may violate certain laws. Please check your area before ordering or assembling, as compliance with any such law is the purchaser's responsibility.

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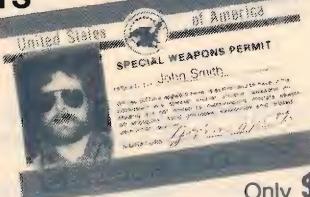
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Cooking With Mud



I WAS extremely fortunate in my youth to be raised with a great-grandmother who lived to be 99 years young.

She and her family came across the country in a covered wagon from Pennsylvania to Iowa, and obtained a 160-acre homestead. There were more Indians than whites in Iowa at the time she and her family settled in.

She had 13 children and would often sit by the old wood burning stove and tell me tales of her travels and problems with the Indians. They built their log home and furnished it with the few belongings they had brought with them in the covered wagon. Pots and pans were of course very needed to prepare the game and greens foraged by her husband. They were in their cabin only three weeks when a band of 16 Indians on horseback rode up and forcefully entered the cabin. They took almost everything they had and left.

Great-grandma had a real dilemma on her hands: 13 hungry children and a husband to cook for and not one pot or pan within a hundred miles.

Ole Granny had to be and was extremely resourceful. That first day after the pots were taken her husband brought in some

catfish from a local stream and they had some parsnips, that were somewhat withered. That was the total menu for the day. Well Granny cleaned the catfish but left the skin on, then she headed down to the creek carrying all the catfish and parsnips in a tote sack. She layed down the tote sack at the creek bank and started to dig up some of the rich black earth with a stick about three feet from the creek bank.

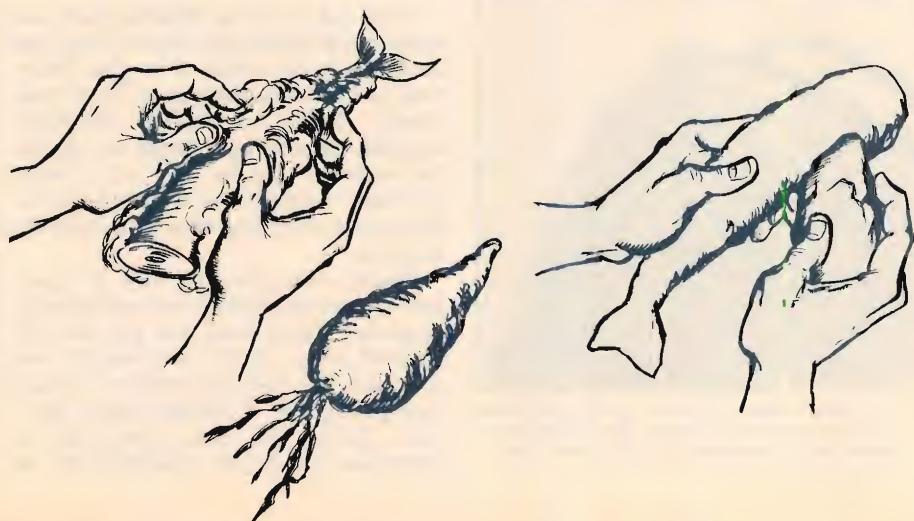
Granny had a real dilemma on her hands: 13 hungry children and a husband to cook for and not one pot or pan within a hundred miles . . .

By Herbert H. Winters

Once the earth was loosened up she started splashing handfuls of water from the creek to the loose earth and made a fairly thick batch of mud.

Then she built a wood fire and let it burn down to glowing coals.

During the time the fire was burning down she had washed the catfish and parsnips and coated them completely with about one-half inch of the mud, next she laid the mud coated parsnips on the coals gently and individually placing them in rows, and in about 15 minutes on the coals the mud was hardened, and she turned the parsnips over to cook the other side. The parsnips took a little longer to bake than the fish. Next she placed the mud-coated fish gently and individually on the hot coals and baked them till the mud was hard enough to turn them over. The catfish were about two pounds each and she baked them for about an hour, turning them about every 10 to 15 minutes. When everything was done she took them off the coals and laid them on the ground away



M16-Style Parts:

Non-Colt AR-15 Owners Beware

WHILE it currently involves only some owners of AR-15 rifles, there is a bureaucratic movement in the works which might ultimately be used in an attempt to remove many semiauto firearms from the hands of American citizens.

What's going on?

The first inkling of problems came with a letter sent out in 1986 to those who had purchased AR-15 rifles or rifle kits from Olympic Arms, Inc. (which also markets the same parts and guns under the company name of SGW). In the letter, D.A. Schuetz, the secretary/treasurer of Olympic Arms/SGW, wrote that "due to recent media pressure about automatics, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has recently taken a tougher stance on what they consider 'a combination of parts' that make an AR-15 automatic . . . we are required to comply by instituting a recall."

So, no doubt at great expense, Olympic Arms/SGW sent out recall letters and did the work necessary to keep the weapons which they had sold within the new BATF guidelines.

When Olympic's recall letters reached the owners of the "automatic weapons," many shooters were undoubtedly shocked to learn that they owned illegal weapons—especially since the rifles fired only in the semiauto mode (one shot per trigger pull) and wouldn't fire in the fully automatic mode!

Just how did the BATF figure the AR-15-style rifles were automatic weapons?

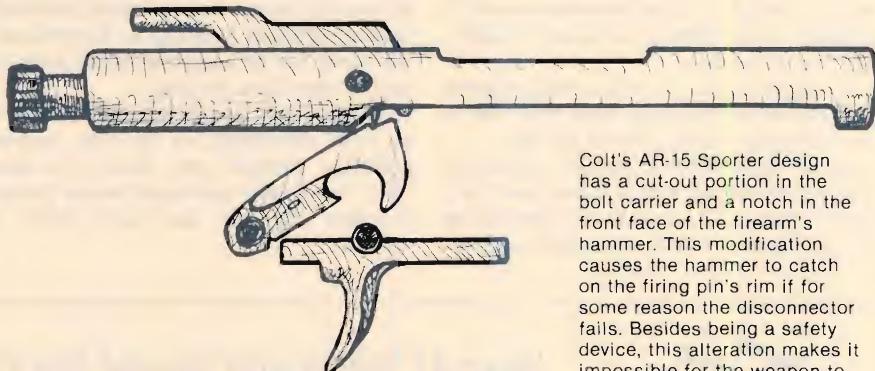
In a letter sent to Olympic Firearms (dated March 12, 1986), BATF explained the procedure, "The SGW . . . AR rifle . . . which was recently received from your firm was found to fire in the full automatic mode merely by removing the disconnector."

This has chilling overtones for anyone owning a semiauto rifle or pistol since many semiauto firearms—both rifles and pistols—will fire in this type of "automatic mode" if the disconnector is "merely" removed or altered.

It should be noted that at least some BATF agents were aware of the fact that many AR-15 style rifles built with M16 parts would malfunction in this manner. In 1985, while working on my book, *The AR-15/M16: A Practical Guide* for Paladin Press, a BATF agent told me that AR-15 rifles made using military-style parts would fire in an automatic mode if the disconnector were removed from them.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has recently taken a tougher stance on what they consider 'a combination of parts' that make an AR-15 rifle an automatic . . .

By Duncan Long



Colt's AR-15 Sporter design has a cut-out portion in the bolt carrier and a notch in the front face of the firearm's hammer. This modification causes the hammer to catch on the firing pin's rim if for some reason the disconnector fails. Besides being a safety device, this alteration makes it impossible for the weapon to go "full auto."

I asked, "Does that mean that all those rifles which have been built with M16 parts are illegal?" I failed to get a definite answer at that time. Why BATF waited for over a year to take action on what they now consider to be illegal automatic weapons is a bit of a mystery. It IS good that BATF has considered the problem to be a mistake rather than an attempt to break the law and has given owners of the weapons a chance to have their rifles "repaired" rather than confiscated.

Why aren't criminals taking advantage of this and making lots of illegal automatic weapons? Because this type of automatic fire is EXTREMELY dangerous and unreliable. The alteration is of use only if the shooter is interested in blowing up a firearm!

The reason for this is that when the disconnector is removed from an AR-15 (or a number of other semiauto guns), the hammer will then follow the bolt forward if the trigger is held back rather than having the disconnector engage it. If the round chambers smoothly and the weapon is clean and worn in, the hammer will often have enough force when it slams into the firing pin to actually ignite the primer and fire the cartridge. Thus, the weapon will fire a number of times as long as ammunition is in the magazine and the trigger is depressed so that the hammer is free to follow the bolt forward during the firing/reloading cycle.

The danger is that if the cartridge hangs up or has a primer with a thick case, the primer may not ignite quickly enough to



M16-style disconnector, left, is usually altered when you buy it. A properly altered disconnector has no "tail," middle. Colt AR-15 Sporter disconnectors, right, are readily recognized by their complete lack of a tail. These disconnectors will work only with a Sporter trigger since the spring notch is located in a forward position.

fully burn the powder in the round. This would cause a hang fire or a misfire which leaves a bullet in the barrel.

A hang fire is dangerous since the cartridge may fire seconds after the hammer hits the primer. The gun may be pointed the wrong way when the cartridge finally fires and—in the case of a weapon in the auto mode—a string of surprise shots may suddenly occur. If the cartridge is ejected manually from the gun before the hang fire ignites fully, the case will explode and shower the area with brass shrapnel. Either way, careless gun handling can make a hang fire a very dangerous occurrence.

Even more disastrous—at least for the firearm—is the potential of a bullet, and perhaps some unburnt power, being lodged in the barrel. This could occur if the primer is not hit hard enough to fully ignite. When this happens, a second shot—which could take place during the auto fire sequence—will create enough pressure inside the barrel to split it apart. Such an explosion can be severe enough to break ear drums and the bits of flying metal can cause large wounds and blindness to the shooter or those near him.

Even if a modified gun wasn't "blessed" with a hang fire or explosion, the gun would cycle so quickly that it would be nearly impossible to control. In short, NO ONE in their right mind removes a disconnector in order to achieve full-auto fire in a

semiauto rifle or pistol.

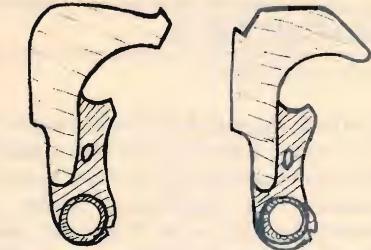
BUT BATF doesn't need to prove that the full auto mode works well or safely or with all types of ammunition. This is as it should be since, otherwise, it would be nearly impossible to remove illegal weapons of various types from the hands of criminals.

The Catch—The legal catch comes in as to whether the firearm is "easily modified" to fire in the auto mode and whether or not the weapon is actually "any combination of parts from which a machine gun can be assembled." And BATF maintains that the AR-15s which can fire in the slam-fire mode are machine guns.

The precedent of REMOVING parts to achieve auto fire is of concern to non-AR-15 owners since most semiauto weapons can be made to fire in the automatic mode when parts are removed. And if the idea is taken one step farther, to the "easily altered" idea, then nearly all semiauto weapons can fire from this dangerous auto mode if parts are altered on a grinding wheel—which is readily available in most home shops.

John Browning made his first automatic rifle from a lever action rifle.

It IS a mistake to think that BATF agents are the culprits here. Rather than paint BATF as the bad guys, it should be remembered that BATF is only one of the enforcement arms of our legal system;



The M16-style hammer, left, should have the rear "hook" ground off it and the small—and important—indent ground into its face. While the angle of the new indent isn't critical, care must be taken to get it as close to that shown as possible so that it will function properly. Properly shaped hammer is shown at right.

BATF is only enforcing the laws as they see them. What needs to be done to head off this legal precedent is a clarification of the laws which determine what an automatic firearm is.

At any rate, Colt Firearms seems to have "headed off" the BATF in the AR-15 "Sporter" design from the very first. The Colt design—which must now be adopted by those who wish to keep their non-Colt AR-15s (or Colt AR-15s with M16-style parts) legal—will not fire in the slam-fire auto mode even if the disconnector is removed.

The alteration in the basic military AR-

(Continued on page 32)

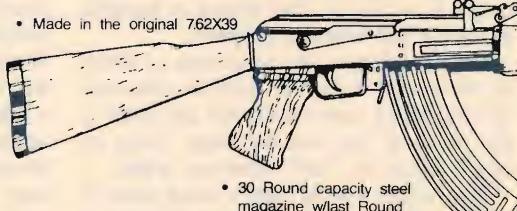
They're Here!

Yugoslav AK-47's

Made in Yugoslavia For Mitchell Arms



Joy Mitchell shown holding an AK-47 in 7.62X39 with folding stock and 75rd drum magazine

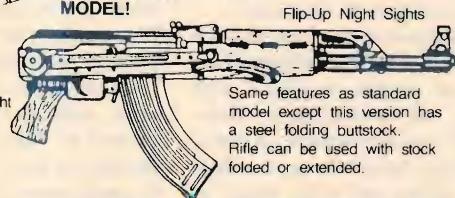


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Features:

- Heavy, finned barrel
- Heavy Forend
- With or without Bi-Pod, folding and detachable
- Fully adjustable day or night sights



Same features as standard model except this version has a steel folding buttstock. Rifle can be used with stock folded or extended.

These are standard AK-47's in every respect except they are semi-auto and conform to U.S. laws and import regulations



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Based on the famous Dragunov Rifle! M-76 in 7.62mm Caliber



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Non-Colt AR-15

(Continued from page 31)

15/M16 design which Colt made was to cut out a portion of the bolt carrier and place a small slot in the front face of the firearm's hammer. This modification causes the hammer to catch on the firing pin's rim if—for some reason—the disconnector fails. In addition to being a safety device, this alteration makes it impossible for the weapon to be made to fire if the disconnector is altered or even removed.

How do you protect yourself if you have an AR-15-style weapon with a few M16 parts in it?

Currently, BATF is taking a very lenient and—all things considered—fair attitude toward the parts and allowing owners to convert them to "AR-15 configuration." These changes are fairly simple and most can be carried out on pretty crude equipment. If you are capable of doing such work yourself, the only household tools you'll need are a bench grinder (the metal parts are too tough for a file) and a soldering torch along with an assortment of drift punches, screwdrivers, mallets, etc.

There is, however, always an element of danger in altering gun parts. If you're not sure of what you're doing, DO NOT DO THE ALTERATIONS YOURSELF. Get the work done by a competent gunsmith or buy new parts. Saving a few dollars isn't worth risking human lives if you end up with an unsafe firearm.

If you elect to simply replace the parts with those of the "newly legal" configuration, the parts are available from a number of companies including Olympic/SGW, Dept. ASG, 624 Old Pacific Hwy. S.E., Olympia, WA 98503 (206) 456-3471; and Sherwood International, Dept. ASG, 18714 Parthenia St., Northridge, CA 91324 (800) 423-5237. Simply order the new parts, have a gunsmith replace them (if you can't do the work yourself), and "deep six" the old parts. You don't want to keep unaltered parts since things could get sticky as to ownership if such "illegal machine guns" in the near future.

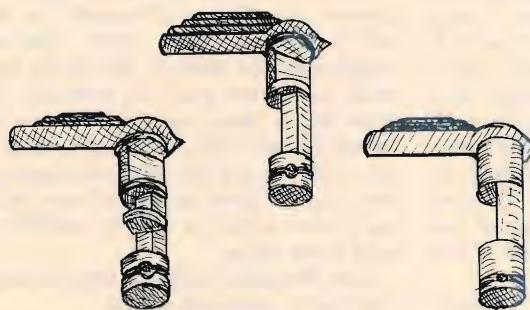
Converting—If you decide to convert your old parts (and save a nice sum of money in the process) the M16-style parts which must be altered to keep BATF happy are the bolt carrier, disconnector, safety/selector, hammer, and trigger. Of these, the most critical are the hammer and bolt.

The lower receiver parts are removed by drifting out the pins holding them in place. Take care not to lose the small spring under the disconnector and note the spring placement on the trigger and hammer.

The disconnector is generally altered when you buy it though a few have been sold in the past without the change having been made. A properly altered disconnector has no "tail." As shown in the illustration, all that needs to be done is to grind off the tail up to the spring cut.



The M16-style bolt carrier, bottom, might be changed to the AR-15 configuration, top. The metal below the rear of firing pin must be removed from the M16-style carrier. Once this is accomplished, the front notch which has been cut into the hammer can then engage the rear rim of the firing pin if the disconnector fails or is removed.



On the M16-style selector, left, the small step or notch in the center of the bar must be removed. Take great care not to alter any other of the faces of the selector since doing so might cause the "safe" position to fail. The properly altered M16-style selector, center, looks different from the Colt Sporter selector, right.

When grinding off the tail of the disconnector or grinding on any of the parts, be sure to keep the temperature of the metal low. Letting the part heat up can destroy its tempering and greatly reduce the life and safety of the firearm the part is used in.

The M16-style hammer should have the rear "hook" ground off it and the small—and important—indent ground into its face. While the angle of the new indent isn't extremely critical, care must be taken to get it as close to that shown as possible so that it will function properly.

On the selector, the small step or notch in the center of the bar must be removed. Take GREAT care not to alter any other of the faces of the selector since doing so might cause the "safe" position to fail.

The trigger should have a small piece of metal soldered over its rear end so that it is no longer open. Silver soldering a small piece of metal into this opening is most ideal since silver solder makes the piece very hard to remove. When soldering the small piece of metal over the back of the trigger, take great care not to allow the rest of the trigger, especially the front edge that connects to the hammer, to overheat.

The hardest alteration is changing the bolt carrier to the AR-15 configuration. Frankly, for most people, buying a new bolt is probably the best solution. However, if you think you are capable of doing the work, the metal below the area where the rear of the firing pin rides must be removed. Once this is accomplished, the front notch which has been cut into the hammer can then engage the rear rim of the firing pin to lock the bolt open if the

disconnector fails for one reason or another. Currently, BATF does not seem to be requiring that the rear cut-out of the M16-style carriers be removed. To really be on the safe side, however, you may wish to go ahead and grind off this lower rear portion as well.

To test the alterations, remove the magazine from the AR-15 and check the chamber to be sure it's empty. Place the selector into its "fire" position. Pull the charging handle back and—while still holding it—ease it about halfway forward. While holding the bolt/bolt carrier half-way open, pull the trigger (you should hear a slight click as the hammer falls). Now, release the charging handle. The carrier should lock open if the alterations have been made properly. To free the carrier, pull the charging handle back and release it. The bolt carrier should go fully forward.

Altering these is a lot of work and/or expense for you if you own an AR-15 with M16-style parts (and don't forget to check to be sure the parts are changed if you're buying a non-Colt manufactured rifle). But having the right parts in an AR-15 is worth it if it means that you can keep your firearm for the time you may need a firearm for an emergency or for self protection.

In the mean time, perhaps those owning other semiauto firearms, which can't be altered to "lock up" if a part is removed, should sit down and write a letter to their Congressmen asking for some more legal protection to be extended to gun owners.

Otherwise, when you need your semiauto rifle or pistol, it may be in the hands of a government agency rather than yours!

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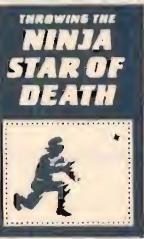


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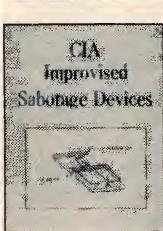


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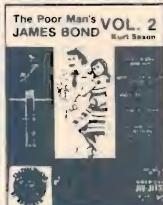
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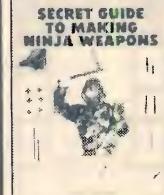
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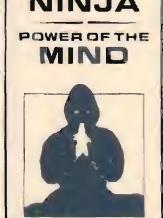
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Unconventional Weapons:

Terrorist Arsenal

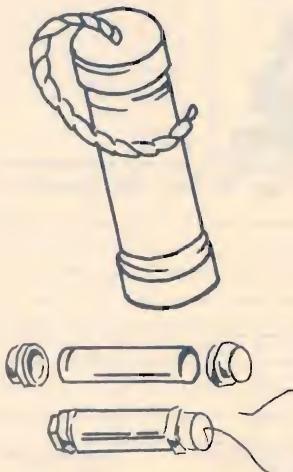
A pretty young pregnant woman approaches the entrance to a government building in a large West German city. The guard, who is supposed to body-search everybody entering, feels uncomfortable about groping over the belly of the young mother, so he smiles and waves her past. In five minutes, the same young woman, now slim and trim, after a remarkably fast "delivery," exits from another door. Ten minutes later, the "baby" explodes with a shattering roar.

U.S. drug enforcement agents pause briefly before storming a suburban home known to be a cocaine processing lab. The DEA team bursts into the darkened living room. When the light is turned on, the large 200-watt bulb explodes, sending a fiery sheet of home-made napalm over the agents.

Two members of a Puerto Rican terrorist organization place an "eagle cocktail," a plastic container filled with thickened fuel with a thermite grenade taped on to it, next to a thin-skinned gasoline storage tank. The resulting fireball completely destroys a New Jersey refinery.

Not all terrorist groups have access to rocket propelled grenades or shoulder-fired missiles let alone submachine guns. The security environment in many Western nations precludes the prominent display and use of such exotic hardware. The logistical and security problems of obtaining, transporting, and using many conventional weapons is difficult, if not impossible in those nations which are improving their counter/anti-terrorist skills and forces.

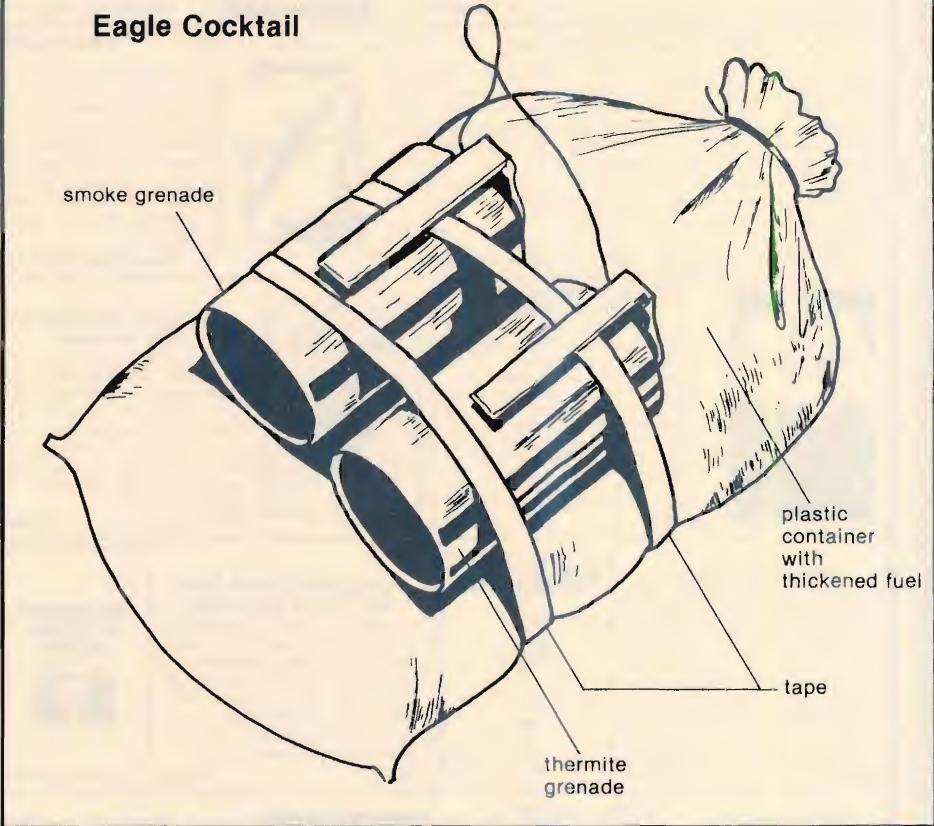
Steel Pipe Filled With Explosives



Not all terrorist groups have access to rocket propelled grenades or shoulder-fired missiles . . .

By Carl H. Yeager

Eagle Cocktail



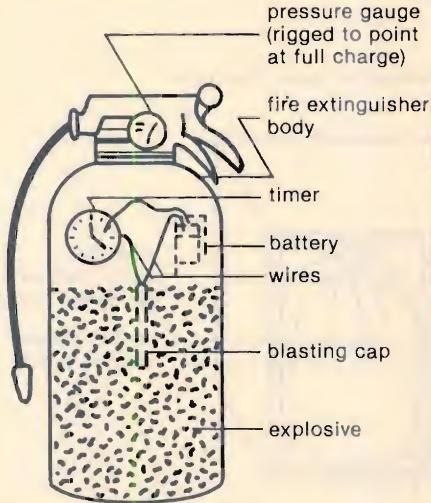
What this means is that terrorist groups have to be more innovative. If conventional weapons are hard to obtain or dangerous to use, then unconventional weapons have to be devised. Usually unconventional tactics have to be formulated around the unconventional weapons systems such as the hypothetical incidents mentioned above.

Small terrorist groups seek any device which will be "force multipliers," that is, to develop those weapons and tactics which will enable them to utilize their clandestine tactics to maximum advantage; to develop weapons systems from materials which can be obtained on the open market which can be used to make dramatic political and social statements, in other words, to appear more potent and larger than they really are. *The Mini-manual of the Urban*

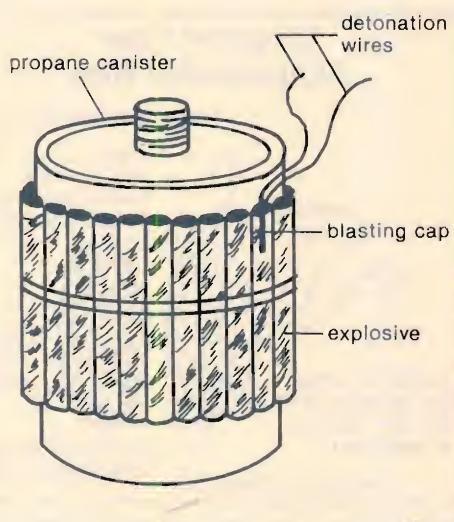
Guerilla, the bible of terrorists world wide, stresses the need of each terrorist to become proficient in the manufacture and use of unconventional weapons and tactics which will enable him to operate as a "one man army."

Fire—A series of fires in several of New York City's major department stores were claimed by the Fuerza Armada de Liberacion Nacional, (FALN) a major Puerto Rican terrorist group which has been plaguing the continental United States and Puerto Rico for years. Their use of arson to prove their potency was simple: a package of cigarettes was carried into target stores stuffed with certain chemicals. To activate the contents, the terorists simply broke a glass vial inside the cigarette pack. In approximately 30 minutes there was an instantaneous ignition.

Fire Extinguisher Bomb



Propane Canister Bomb



Terrorists and narcotics traffickers have used flammable fuel-filled lightbulbs as assassination devices and booby traps. A regular household lightbulb can be used as an ignition arson device and bomb.

Another variation of this weapon is the use of an electrically detonated grenade which is modified to screw into a light socket. The switch-on creates a shower of shrapnel instead of fire.

Many other products, such as phosphorous, when not in water, will cause a fire. A few drops of oil on chlorine will cause a fire within 20 minutes depending on the freshness of the chlorine. Many other flammable liquids that are readily available on the commercial market are used by terrorists in arson attacks. One of the most common used incendiary devices in World War 2 was the Molotov cocktail. It was extremely effective against armored vehicles and fortifications. It consisted of gasoline mixed with fuel oil poured into a glass bottle. A cloth wick soaked with gasoline was stuffed in the opening of the bottle. To attack the target, the wick would be lit and the bottle thrown. The

breaking bottle exposed the gasoline/fuel oil mixture to the open flame which would cause an instant conflagration. The same weapon can be equipped with a timing device to allow the user to leave the scene.

A more exotic and effective device, for use against larger and harder targets, is the "Eagle Cocktail." This is a plastic container filled with thickened fuel (usually a gasoline and fuel oil mixture) with a thermite and smoke grenade taped in place. When the pins are pulled on both grenades simultaneously, the resulting fire and explosion will burn through metal objects such as fuel storage and propane tanks. The smoke grenade creates billows of clouds which enables the terrorist to get away and which will hamper fire fighting efforts. Thermite and smoke grenades aren't exactly over-the-counter items. If needed, terrorists often visit a local military armory . . . preferably after dark.

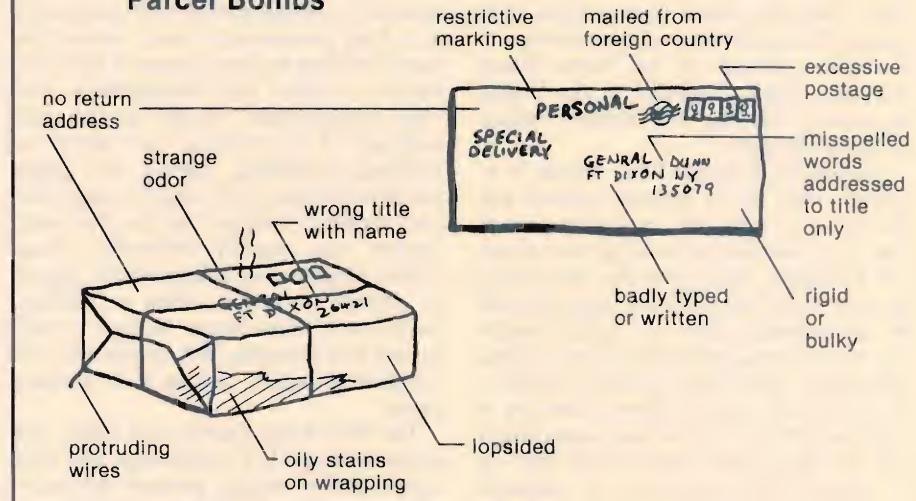
Bombs—An exploding vehicle can be a powerful political statement. Gas tank

bombs can be easily made by even the most dullwitted terrorist. A small container of corrosive material is dropped into a vehicle gas tank. Usually within 30 minutes or less, the shell of the container will deteriorate, allowing the material inside it and the fuel to mix, causing an explosive fire.

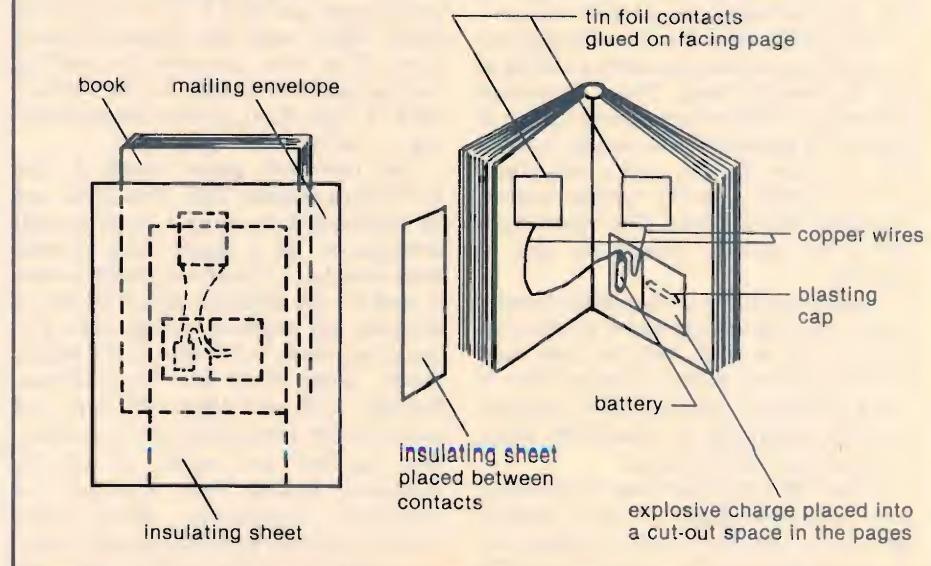
Another method is to use gelatin capsules filled with more gelatin for stronger fingernails (which can be bought at most grocery or drug stores.) The gelatin is emptied, and a lead BB is inserted in each now-empty capsule to make them sink. Sodium and calcium compounds are then forced into the capsules before closing them. It only takes three or four capsules in a gas tank to create havoc. When the capsules disintegrate, the moisture of the gas turns the chemicals into explosive gas, causing the gas tank to become a bomb.

The use of bombs and explosive devices by terrorists has always been effective due to the low cost, simple construction, and

Parcel Bombs



Book Bomb



Terrorist Arsenal

low risk. The "big bang" of a terrorist-initiated explosion attracts the media much more than most terrorist incidents.

When terrorist bombs are mentioned, many people think of truck bombs which, of course, are fast becoming conventional "strategic" weapons of the Shiite Islamic groups such as Amal and the Islamic Jihad. The bomb that killed 241 Marines in Beirut was an RDX explosive-propane enhanced device.

But terrorist bombs come in all sizes. Trucks and cars filled with explosives and propane gas can be further enhanced with nails, glass, steel bearings, and abrasive materials to increase the maiming or killing power. "Mini" enhanced bombs have been constructed by using a simple propane canister—the kind found in recreational vehicles—surrounded by commercial dynamite.

In 1981, members of a Puerto Rican terrorist group called Los Macheteros, penetrated the defenses of Munis Air Force Base near San Juan, Puerto Rico, and placed 21 improvised explosive devices on 12 fighter aircraft of the Puerto Rican National Guard. Eighteen of the bombs detonated, causing \$45 million dollars property damage.

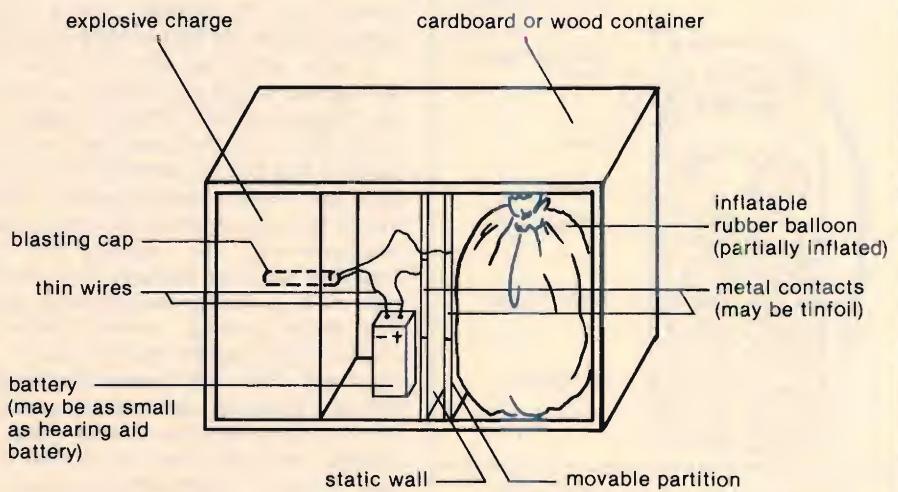
During the Vietnam War, several U.S. aircraft blew up in mid-air without any indication of being hit by hostile ground fire. In a subsequent investigation of fuel cell problems, hand grenades were found in some of the cells with the safety pin still in the grenade with the safety handle secured with army green plastic tape. (Some dull-witted Viet Cong terrorist evidently forgot to pull the pin before inserting it into the fuel cell.) It was later ascertained that the planes that mysteriously blew up in mid-air were destroyed by grenades whose handles were secured by tape *after* the pins were pulled. The aviation fuel would deteriorate the tape, causing the release of the safety handle after an hour or less, thus destroying the aircraft and crew.

Pipe bombs are a favorite of novice terrorist groups or those just getting started in the terrorist trade. These improvised devices are constructed by filling a piece of galvanized pipe with black powder, a small watch, a tiny battery, and a photoflash with the glass carefully broken without damaging the filament. The timed flash ignites the powder, causing the pipe to explode.

Another variation of the simple powder bomb is a wicked little device constructed from a shotgun shell. This has been used by Puerto Rican groups in large cities as "anti-personnel" weapons. They are particularly distressing to pedestrians when dropped from tall buildings.

In the 1980s, military forces in Germany have been the targets of such terrorist groups as the Red Army Faction, the Revolutionary Cells, and Guerrilla

Altitude Bomb



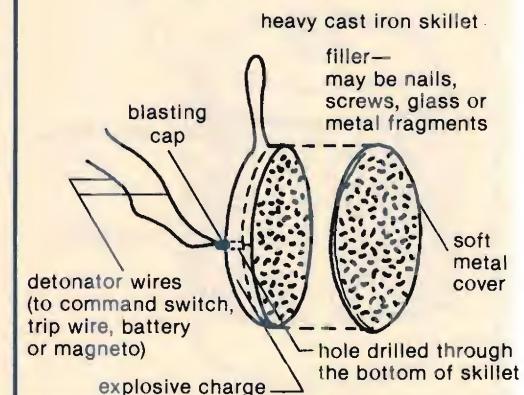
Diffusa. Eight of the past bombings involved the following tactic: the terrorist, dressed in civilian work clothes and posing as a base maintenance man, entered the target building for the purpose of replacing empty or faulty fire extinguishers. The "fire extinguishers" would be an exact duplicate of the standard type within the building, including having the gauge needle indicating "full" and the inspection card signed to indicate that the fire extinguisher was recently inspected. These bombs disguised as extinguishers, placed in strategic locations within a building, would cause tremendous damage to personnel and property, not to mention the rampant insecurity among U.S. military forces.

The Red Army Faction has killed and maimed several U.S. servicemen and their dependents by using a pressure detonated switch placed on a bomb under a car seat. When the victim sits down and depresses the switch, the device is activated. In 1985, other successful improvised explosive devices were used by a U.S. terrorist group which called itself the United Freedom Front. They were successful in bombing the National War College at Fort McNair, the U.S. Navy Yard, and the Senate Building . . . all in Washington, D.C.

The mail and parcel bomb is fast becoming a popular IED. This device can be constructed by using a large manilla envelope or, for a bigger bang, a small book-sized box. A small wristwatch battery is used for the electrical circuit needed to detonate any explosive charge. The preferred explosive, in this case, is C-4 plastic sheets, letter sized for the envelope. Between 1978 and 1982, 357 mail and parcel bombs were sent in the U.S. alone. Two hundred and eighty six actually detonated causing four fatalities and twenty-six woundings. Book-bombs mailed in parcels were particularly lethal.

A recent innovation utilizing the mail

Claymore Type Antipersonnel Mine



parcel bomb was the use of sulfuric acid and a small cyanide tablet. Using the same principle of the explosive mail bomb, when the package or letter is opened, the sulphuric acid mixes with the cyanide tablet, creating a cloud of toxic gas and killing the victim.

Even the wrapping cord can be lethal. It might be made of a sophisticated explosive compound called PETN DETCORD. Mail and package bombs, however, can develop problems over time and distance. Explosives leak oily substances; the charge shifts en route creating a telltale lopsidedness and, especially if the terrorist is foreign, mistakes are often made in spelling, addresses, and zip codes.

In spite of heightened security measures, IEDs are still smuggled aboard aircraft with alarming regularity. One of the more innovative IEDs is the altitude bomb developed by Ahmed Jibrail, founder of the Palestinian Liberation Front. After preparing the bombs, they would be inserted into radios or cassettes and then given to unsuspecting females who had no idea that they were taking bombs aboard

(Continued on page 45)

Coleman-Western:

Outdoors Companions

A few examples of some fine cutting and sawing tools . . .

Staff Report

COLEMAN-WESTERN's best-selling new Mighty Light locking folder knives are a hot item with retailers again this year and are available in several new models.

The Mighty Lights shown here have the traditional gray nylon sheaths and matte black lightweight synthetic handles which are ergonomically designed and precision molded to fit the user's hand. The handle top is rocker shaped to conform to the palm and the bottom is scalloped so fingers fit and are protected.

Mighty Light lockback clip blades are crafted from 440 stainless steel, hardened and tempered to take a razor edge and, hold it. The smaller model pictured here is 6 inches overall when opened with a 2 1/4-inch standard parkerized blade and a 2 1/8-inch parkerized saw blade. The new larger version measures 8 1/2 inches open with a 3 1/8-inch standard parkerized blade and a parkerized saw blade of the same length. Both standard and saw blades lock open. The Mighty Lights are now available with Hunter Green handles and camouflage sheaths.

Another piece of cutlery pictured here is the Knife/Saw. It features the same type handle material as the Mighty Lights. Its large 4 1/4-inch standard blade with serrated rear cutting edge locks open by means of a single metal plate inside the handle which is pressed to unlock and fold



Coleman-Western's Mighty Light lockblade folders, Model 954, left, and Model 952.

the blade. The 5-inch saw blade does not lock open.

Also shown here is the Coleman-Western Sheath Knife. It is a full-tang knife with beautiful rosewood handles and steel handle rivets. The blade is 3 inches with a finger groove at the bottom rear for

a sure grip. It comes with a sturdy leather belt sheath.

These and other fine Coleman-Western cutlery are available at better knife dealers and other retail outlets across the country. Take a look at them and compare the quality to other knives around. ●



The Knife/Saw Model 955.



Sheath Knife Model W81.

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Spare No. 4 Filter Element. #10010. \$60.00 ppd.**



Expedition Filter

This filter is a larger portable model suitable for houses without a water supply, expeditions and civil emergency use. Like the Pocket Filter, sterile water out-at-the-top, raw water in-through-the-bottom is a Katadyn design to minimize water handling and accidental contamination of the purified water by operating personnel. The Expedition Filter is comprised of a nickel-plated brass pump and filter housing, surface treated corrosion resistant steel stand, one No. 4 ceramic filter element and an intake hose with coarse particle strainer. Ready for use, the height can be regulated between 24" and 32". The total height ready for transport is 24".

Built to Swiss military specifications, this rugged filter can produce up to one gallon per minute of safe potable water. When output is slowed by excessive silt or algae, full flow is easily restored by wiping or brushing the filter element.

The Expedition Filter is packed in a canvas case with shoulder strap and includes a filter element cleaning brush. Total weight: 14 pounds.

**KFT—Katadyn Expedition Filter. #4010. \$495.00 ppd.
Spare No. 4 Filter Element. #10010. \$60.00 ppd.**

KATADYN POCKET FILTER...

Instantly purifies water anywhere!

Who uses Katadyn Water Filters? Katadyn Water Filters meet military specifications and are standard issue with NATO and many other armies. They're a staple item with the Swiss Red Cross which stocks them and uses them whenever a natural disaster strikes anywhere in the world—in cases of floods and earthquakes, public water supplies invariably become contaminated and immediate access to safe drinking water quickly becomes critical to the survivors. Dozens of missionary societies all over the world rely on Katadyn Water Filters to keep staffs healthy and functioning. Many of the expeditions to remote areas have relied on Katadyns including most of the major Himalayan ascents.

How does the Katadyn Pocket Filter work? Manufactured in Switzerland for over half a century, Katadyn's Water Filters are based on the proven and simple mechanical principle of microfiltration. The filter element is a microporous ceramic material with an effective porosity smaller than 0.2 microns. It acts as a microfine filter on water forced through it, straining out bacteriological contaminants including the smallest known free living organisms.

All harmful cocci, bacteria, protozoa, fungi, cysts and parasites are totally removed including the chemically resistant infectious agents of **Giardia**, the amoebic and shigella dysenteries, pseudomonas, salmonella, Entamoeba histolytica, naeglaeri, and also those causing typhoid, cholera, bilharzia, schistosoma and a long list of other dangerous diseases. Katadyn Filters also effectively remove nuclear fallout debris and other similar hazardous particles such as asbestos fibers.

Do Katadyn Filters rely on chemicals for their effectiveness? Absolutely not...and this is the most important distinction between Katadyn Pocket Filters and other portable water purifiers you may have seen. Because Katadyn Filters are based on microfiltration, they work equally well on all types of raw water regardless of the temperature or degree of turbidity.

Chemical methods of water disinfection, including both chemicals added to water and all water filters based on chemical disinfection principles involving chlorine or iodine compounds, can be shown to work well under carefully controlled laboratory conditions but will vary greatly in their effectiveness under practical field conditions.

Factors bearing the effectiveness of chemical disinfection methods include the type and concentration of the pathogen, the turbidity of the water, including the nature and quantity of the suspended materials, the water temperature and pH reading, how many different types of bacteria, viruses and fungi exist, how decaying vegetation, the contact time between the chemical disinfectant and the pathogens, how vigorously and how long the chemical/water mixture is agitated, what plastics may be present that might react with and consume the chemical and the storage history of the chemical. Is it old, been stored too long and at too high a temperature and hence stale and ineffective?

When purifying water you're going to drink, "99%" or even "99.999%" effectiveness is not enough. In the case of *Giardia lamblia*,* as few as half a dozen ingested cysts can infect you. Badly contaminated water may contain a million cysts or more per liter of raw water.

Microfiltration with Katadyn Water Filters is an absolute method. As long as the filter element is intact, no biological pathogens larger than 0.2 microns can pass through. This is true regardless of the field operating conditions. Neither is there a shelf life problem with Katadyn Filters. Storage life is unlimited as long as you store the filter at temperatures below that might damage the seals.

The ceramic filter is factory impregnated with silver to prevent algae, fungi and bacteria from colonizing the surface of the element and plugging it up. This might otherwise happen if you put a wet and dirty filter away for several weeks after using it. Silver is in no way involved in the filter's purification process.

No chemicals are added to the purified water and none are removed—the water retains its natural mineral content. Neither will seawater or brackish water be made potable as no salts are removed.

What about muddy water with algae in it? Unlike chemical methods, Katadyn Filters **work equally well with turbid water** heavily laden with silt or algae and will **clarify the water** as well as disinfect it. Because of the very large surface and "depth filter" action of the Katadyn microporous ceramic element, you can work with raw water laden with these materials. River guides on the Colorado and Green Rivers use Katadyn Filters on water so muddy you can't see your finger tips if you dip your hand in the water. Even under such conditions plugging is seldom a problem. If you do manage to plug up the filter, full flow can normally be restored simply by wiping off the filter element. Under very difficult conditions, such as water loaded with microfine clays, the top surface of the filter element can be scraped away using the brush included with the filter. This process exposes a fresh, unobstructed surface and can be repeated hundreds of times before you need to replace the ceramic filter element.

Are any consumable supplies needed with Katadyns? Because no chemicals are used, there are no consumable items involved with Katadyn Filters. Even with daily use in very turbid water, a single filter element can be expected to last five years or more. If you were to drop the exposed ceramic filter element on a sharp rock while you had it apart for cleaning, you could crack the ceramic. With reasonable care this should never happen. If you are planning a trip to a remote area or distant country, it would be a good idea to take along a spare filter element.

*The reproductive trophozoite stage of *Giardia* is 9-21 microns in length and 5-15 microns in width. Approximately 8,000 trophozoites can fit on the head of a pin.

"The effectiveness of the filters is stupendous, they are sturdy and fully capable of standing up to extreme situations. In addition, they are easy to operate and to service."

Swiss Red Cross

"After two weeks, the only ones in the group that weren't sick were the two of us sharing a Katadyn Pocket Filter. Everybody else begged to borrow it the rest of the trip."

International student group travelling in Africa

"We have taken the Katadyn Pocket Filter pump on the Green and Colorado River in Canyonlands National Park this past season. The filter worked well in the silt laden river."

Expedition leader

"The Katadyn filter pumps are superb and served us well on the Omo River expedition. I can't imagine going on any expedition anywhere in the world outside the Arctic and Antarctic without one. They are a necessity."

**Yale University/
National Geographic Omo River Expedition leader**

JULY 1987/AMERICAN SURVIVAL GUIDE

Certificates of the effectiveness of Katadyn Water Filters on file at the factory include:

Swiss Tropical Institute, Basle
University of Zurich
Pasteur Institute, Lille
Harvard University, Cambridge
University of Costa Rica, San Jose
National Institute of Hygiene, Lima
Haffkine Institute, Bombay
Harcourt Butler Institute, Rangoon
Public Health Department, Sydney
Bureau of Health, Manila
Africa Inland Mission, Kampala
Ministry of Health, Cairo
Ross Institute of Tropical Medicine, London

EPA Registration #39444-1



How is the Pocket Filter constructed?

The Katadyn Pocket Filter consists of the ceramic filter element hermetically sealed to protect the "clean side" of the filter, a built-in hand pump to easily develop the 50 psi pressure needed to maintain good flow rates through the very fine pores of the filter, a protective housing, a base fitting with check valves to route the water flow and a silicon intake hose with a coarse particle strainer.

Basically, the Pocket Filter contains three concentric chambers. The outermost chamber is the "raw water" cavity and the surface of the ceramic filter you see when you remove the outer case is the "dirty" side of the filter element. In the center of the filter is a pump cylinder with a reciprocating piston connected to the pump handle. The pump sucks raw water into the cylinder through a check valve on the upstroke, and then on the downstroke routes the water through a second check valve to the outermost chamber. Here the raw water is forced into the surface of the ceramic filter, through the body thickness of the ceramic filter and into a hidden inner "clean water" chamber.

What kind of routine maintenance is required for Katadyn Pocket Filters?

After using the filter and before storing it, remove the protective shell, wash off the ceramic filter element and allow it to air-dry thoroughly before reassembling it. The drying process is completed in 12 to 24 hours depending on the ambient temperature and humidity. Daily use does not require the drying process, but should the filter use be suspended for more than two days, the element should be dried. You'll want to lubricate the pump piston O-ring occasionally with vaseline.

Soap, abrasives or antiseptics should not be used to clean the ceramic filter element. The ceramic element should never be steamed nor used with hot water or the seals will be damaged.

How does the Katadyn Pocket Filter operate?

To purify water, simply place the metal strainer end of the silicon rubber intake hose into the water source out of the mud and sedimentary silt. Place the lower end of the Pocket Filter upon the ground and position the clean water receptacle beneath the output spout. By grasping the pump handle, keeping the forearm rigid and pumping steadily at a rate of about 80 strokes per minute, the average person may produce one quart of water every 90 seconds. When operating the filter for the first time, you'll want to discard the first quart or so of water until any loose ceramic particles are flushed out. One Katadyn Pocket Filter will easily and conveniently support the drinking water requirements of several people.

Very light and compact, only 10" long and 2" diameter—the Pocket Filter weighs only 23 ounces including protective zippered carrying case, filter element cleaning brush, gauge and extra O-ring.

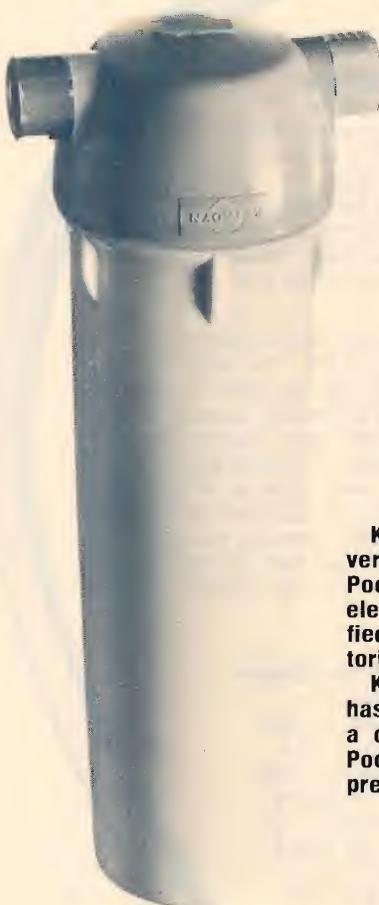
PF—Katadyn Pocket Filter. #3010. \$175.00 ppd.

PFE—Spare Filter Element. #3020. \$87.50 ppd.

Field Maintenance Kit. #3050. \$5.00 ppd.



The look and taste of water, however clear and fresh it may seem, can be deceiving. Only reliably purified water is hygenic and safe. Even boiling guarantees only limited protection. Protect your family and pets from dangerous water-borne diseases by installing a Katadyn Filter.



Katadyn In-Line Filter

The In-Line Filter is designed to be installed under the sink and will supply half a gallon of cold water per minute through one tap at a maximum allowable pressure of 88 psi. The filter housing is constructed of high quality plastic and holds one No. 4 filter element (included). For cleaning purposes the housing is removed by unscrewing it counter-clockwise. The In-Line Filter can be installed in any position using the $\frac{1}{2}$ " gas thread connections at the base of the unit. Height: 13 inches. Weight: 4 pounds.

**HFSK—Katadyn In-Line Filter. #6010. \$140.00 ppd.
Spare No. 4 Filter Element. #10010. \$60.00 ppd.**

Katadyn Products Ltd. of Switzerland makes a very broad line of water purifiers from the small Pocket Filter to very large units with many filter elements in parallel which can supply all the purified water needs of beverage companies, laboratories and hospitals.

Katadyn's ceramic microporous filter technology has been in continuous production for over a half a century with over 1,000,000 filters sold. The Pocket Filter has been manufactured and sold in its present configuration for over twenty-five years.



Katadyn Household Filter

The Household Filter is designed to be plumbed in-line and will produce $2\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of cold water per minute through three No. 4 filter elements (included) at a maximum allowable pressure of 88 psi. The filter housing is constructed of a high quality aluminum alloy that is plastic coated for durability and easy maintenance. The $\frac{1}{2}$ " gas thread outlets are located at the top of the filter with a drain tap underneath. Includes mounting bracket and hardware. Height: 21 inches. Width: 8 inches. Weight: 22 pounds.

**MF-3—Katadyn Household Filter. #7010. \$750.00 ppd.
Spare No. 4 Filter Element. #10010. \$60.00 ppd.**

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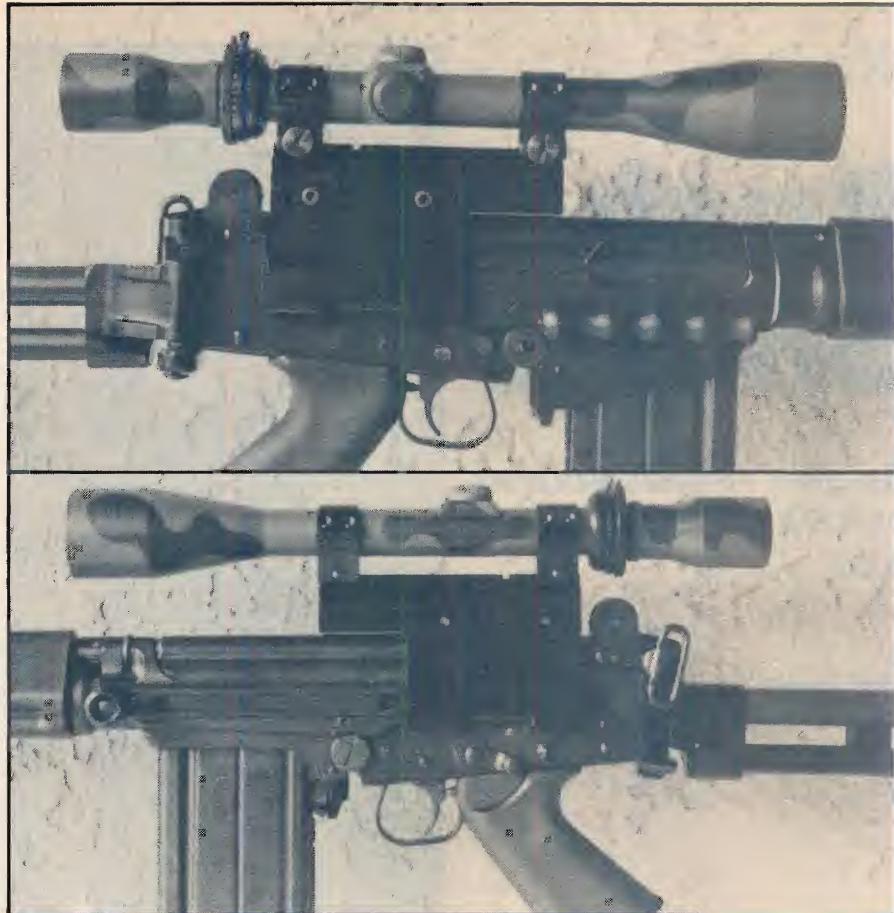
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Well-thought-out, no-gunsmithing mounts . . .

Staff Report



with a scope in minutes with only the simple tools provided with them. And

B-Square makes more mounts for surplus military guns than anyone else—all use without gunsmithing.

With some exceptions, the mounts replace the rear sight of the rifle, have windage and elevation and have standard dovetail for Weaver-type rings (not included), except those with 1-inch B-Square rings. B-Square mounts don't change the arsenal condition of collectible guns.

Shown here are B-Square mounts for the M1 Carbine and M1 Garand rifles, and for the FN FAL rifle. The M1 Carbine mount has a list price of \$39.95. The M1 Garand mount is \$59.95 and the FN FAL mount \$99.50. These are available from dealers nationwide or directly from B-Square Company, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 11281, Ft. Worth, TX 76109; (800) 433-2909; in Texas (817) 923-0964. Add \$2.50 per order for S&H. •

Bush Shorts

Bargain military surplus cutoffs for hot weather wear . . .

Staff Report



NOW that we're entering the hot summer months, consider buying a pair of surplus Dutch or U.S. military cutoff pants which have been hemmed and make great warm-weather wear. And they're cheap!

The new (unused) military surplus Dutch cargo pants have two large cargo pockets on the front and two flapped pockets on the rear. They are made of very heavy duty cotton, almost a canvas-like material, very comfortable. Cut off at the knee with button fly which is flapped. Adjustable waist. Dark OD in color, they are \$9.95 each plus \$2 S&H. Two pair for \$19.95 postpaid. Available in sizes 27-38.

Then there are the four-pocket used good condition U.S. military olive khaki shorts that are also hemmed. Some have small repairs but all are in #1 condition. Large pockets on front which will hold lots of gear and two button-flap pockets on the back. They have a flap-covered button fly, large belt loops and are made of 100 percent cotton. All sizes up to 38. Only \$5.95 plus \$1.50 S&H per pair. Three pair for \$15 postpaid.

Both types of these true bush pants are available from SI, Dept. ASG, 18239 S. Figueroa St., Gardena, CA 90248; (213) 324-8855 or 324-8859; outside California (800) 533-7415. •

Terrorist Arsenal

(Continued from page 36)

El Al Israeli commercial planes rigged to explode in flight. Two of these young women had been entertained for a weekend in Rome by a couple of Arab students who promised to join them later in Tel Aviv. Although this particular bomb did explode in mid-air, it failed to disintegrate the plane or kill any passengers. The bomb was made with a balloon placed in a box or container just large enough to fit into a radio. As the aircraft moved to a higher altitude, the air pressure around the balloon would lessen, causing the balloon to expand, thus forcing two metal objects connected to the balloon to make contact.

CBR Weapons—During the 1968 Democratic Party convention in Chicago, a terrorist safehouse was raided by the FBI and several containers of liquid LSD were found. It was believed that the terrorists planned on inserting the LSD into the community water supply . . . the city side of the filtration plants. In 1975, a group of German nationals were arrested in Sweden for trying to sell a batch of TABUN, a deadly nerve gas, to a terrorist group. That same year, an unknown terrorist group contaminated an Austrian train with Iodine-131, a radioactive isotope that causes cancer.

William H. Cassidy, a renowned expert on exotic weaponry, stated in *An Introductory Overview on Planned Political Assassination*:

“ . . . the key elements to consider when examining a chemical or biological technique is the method of delivery. Much as been written about the contact method, involving the use of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). When used with a toxin, DMSO diffuses rapidly through the epidermic, carrying along whatever toxin or other substances it has been mixed with, although DMSO in itself is not toxic. DMSO is freely available from any veterinary supply house or from other sources. Another method used regularly by the Soviet KGB involves a vapor or gas gun. A striker, activated by a small charge, bursts a glass ampoule filled with five cubic centimeters of prussic (hydrocyanic) acid which vaporizes in the victim's face, killing him instantly.”

The arms race between terrorist and counterterrorist has developed an unconventional component, as well as conventional. It is the innovative, low technology which can turn an ordinary lightbulb into a napalm device, or a simple cast iron skillet into a claymore mine.

The only restriction is in the imagination of the terrorist. •

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NBC Defense: Gas Masks

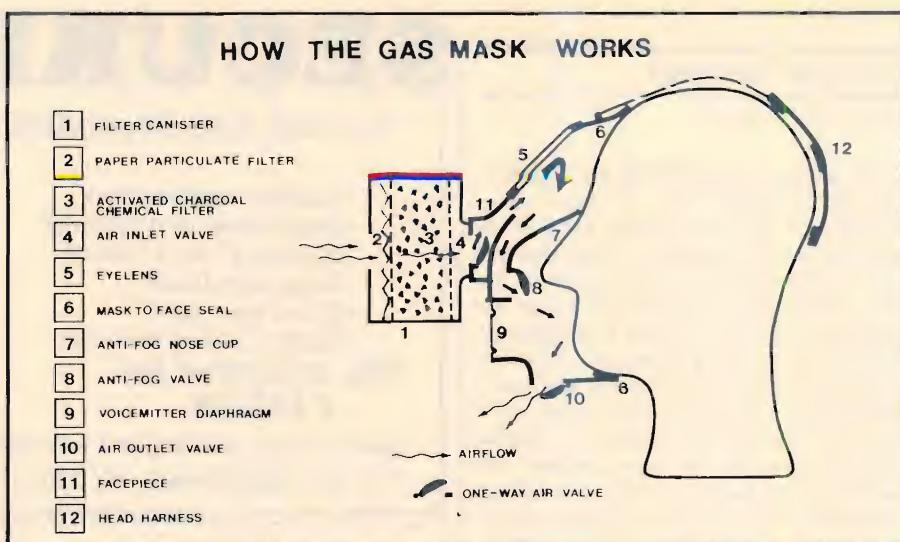


The Akron-Tissot mask was used by the U.S. Army during the years between WW1 and WW2.

NOTHING that happened during my basic combat training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, 10 years ago would have indicated that I had the slightest bit of talent for surviving on a battlefield that had been sprayed with nukes, bugs and gas. Or that I would end up spending the greater part of my military career dealing with nuclear, biological and chemical warfare, for that matter.

The drill sergeants dutifully timed us at putting on our "protective masks" in under nine seconds. No one asked why, though it was mentioned that a mask was a good thing to have when using tear gas to flush the enemy out of his holes in Vietnam.

We were told to don our masks before entering the gas chamber. This was hardly necessary since once inside a leak caused by an improper face seal of the M17 mask that I was issued resulted in my being gassed—totally! I experienced the full effect of the thick CS riot agent which filled the gas chamber: tearing, tightness of chest, burning of skin and an intense



The gas mask or respirator must be of adequate design, properly fitted and in good repair to protect its wearer . . .

By S.R. Pressman

desire to escape the chamber, which I did with great speed without the customary recitation of name, rank, organization, and service number.

The gas mask, respirator, or whatever one chooses to call it must be of adequate design, properly fitted and in good repair to protect its wearer. Using the mask is the first square on the gameboard of nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) defense. Though gas warfare is most often thought of as a bunch of World War I nostalgia, the reported recent use of chemical warfare by Iraq against Iran, and by the Soviets in Afghanistan, Yemen and Southeast Asia promises no future for those who will not play the game.

Lack of seriousness about NBC defense guarantees that the bad guys will use gas. Thirty to 60 percent casualties inflicted on a force that has no masks, or can not use the masks they have properly is just too lucrative a target to pass up for an enemy chemical target analyst.

Garret A. Morgan (1877-1963) of Cleveland, Ohio, invented the gas mask about

the turn of the century. He was concerned with protecting miners and firefighters from the toxic lighter-than-air gases produced in fires and mines, and had no idea of the horror of gas warfare that the Germans would unleash at Ypres in 1915.

The Morgan safety helmet was a clever affair and was considered to be state-of-the-art until the advent of the self-contained breathing apparatus in the 1930s. It consisted of a helmet which completely covered the head, and a filter box attached by two hoses which hung behind the wearer like an old fashioned tailcoat.

In 1917, the first elements of the American Expeditionary Force sailed for Europe with gas masks manufactured under a crash program directed by Major L.P. Williamson of the Army Surgeon General's Department in cooperation with a volunteer staff from the Bureau of Mines and private industry. The United States manufactured over five million masks before the end of World War I.

Lens Fogging—The problems of eyelens fogging and uncomfortable fit were solved by the end of the war. A Frenchman named Tissot solved the fogging problem by having the intake air pass over the eyelens of his mask. The Tissot mask used an inner face piece which replaced the nose clip and mouth breathing tube and vented moisture-laden breath away from the eyelens. Major Kops, a New York City corset maker in civilian life, cut the facepiece to the human face, and the concept of individual sizes was introduced. The new facepiece was attached by a hose to an improved British small box filter and was issued in a canvas bag which hung around the neck when the mask was worn. The new mask was called the Kops-Tissot and



This modern version of the GM-38 mask is currently in use with the East German army.



The Israeli Shalon-Chemical Industries No. 15A1 is available in this country through surplus outlets.

the product improved version called the Akron-Tissot mask served the U.S. Army in one form or the other through World War 2.

A modern gas mask will protect its wearer's face, eyes and respiratory tract from an atmosphere that contains as much as a 2 percent field concentration of a toxic agent by filtering out 99.999 percent of toxic vapors from the air. Two percent of a toxic agent may not seem like much, but then the ability to kill or incapacitate a human being when breathed or absorbed through the skin in extremely low concentrations is a characteristic property of chemical weapons. At concentrations greater than 2 percent, a military gas mask will cease to be effective and self-contained breathing devices such as the Scott Air-Pack which work like a diver's SCUBA gear must be used. Greater than 2 percent concentrations are typically encountered by firefighters, chemical

The most important part of the gas mask is the filter. In a military mask the filter consists of two stages, the micro-porous particulate filter paper and the activated charcoal absorbent.

The filter paper provides protection against particulate smoke type agents, including hexachlorethane and acid-based screening smokes, CS and CN riot agents and arsenic-based incapacitating agents like Adamsite. The activated charcoal protects against all known lethal gases and vapors.

Activated charcoal has miles of microscopic pores, nooks, and crannies that enable it to soak up toxic chemicals just like a sponge. When the charcoal becomes saturated with chemicals the filter must be

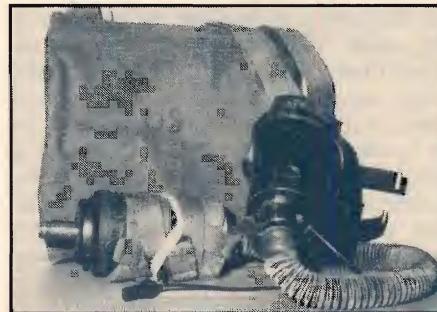
replaced. Water is soaked up by activated charcoal as easily as a chemical agent so most gas masks are issued with either waterproof carriers or plastic bags to keep them dry when fording streams or in wet weather.

Filters should be changed after every gas attack. Filters used in U.S. protective masks are good for about 12 hours in an attack and require a lot of effort to breath through. Their easier breathing European cousins contain proportionally less charcoal and will last only three or four hours in an attack. This is why the United Kingdom issues its soldiers three spare filter canisters with their masks. If operations are anticipated in areas where the air is contaminated by carbon monoxide, ammonia, or other commercial chemicals then industrial grade masks with filters specifically designed to protect against these chemicals must be used, since military filters will not protect against them.

Facelet Masks—The U.K. also issues three protective facelet masks to each soldier. The facelet, a sort of doctor's mask

made of the same carbon impregnated cloth as the NBC protective suit, prevents the involuntary gasp for air which happens when a person is exposed to toxic vapors. The facelet will prevent more than 90 percent of the poison contained in the initial gasp from reaching the lungs of a person under chemical attack. And it can increase available masking time from nine to sixty seconds. The facelet is a handy thing to have when troops are in an area likely to be attacked by chemicals since it allows for unimpeded use of weapons sights, easy breathing and good voice communications.

A typical military gas mask filter has only the equivalent area of a 3/16-inch hole to allow air to get through to the wearer. Thus, the average full face military mask quickly fatigues the wearer because it is so hard to breath through. It gets in the way of weapons sights, limits peripheral vision, and it is hard to hear someone who is wearing a mask that does not have a speech diaphragm or voicemitter. In the field trying to issue instructions through a voicemitter is a lot like trying to command with a kazoo in your mouth.



The U.S. Army M25A1 tanker mask is equipped with a microphone for radio communications.



The U.S. Navy MK V mask is designed to protect against industrial chemicals found onboard ships.

The Gas Masks Rated

Country	Type	Level of Protection	Breathing Resistance	Seal	NATO Filter Compatible	Overall Visibility	Resistance to Fogging	Vision thru (thru Rifle)	Weapons Sights (thru Optics)	Drinking Capability	Carrier Material	Comments
United States	M17	Excellent*	Fair	Edge	No	Good	Good	No	Yes	No	Cotton Duck	*Protection of M17 series masks is excellent when fitted with rubber hood.
	M17A1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Yes	"	
	M17A2	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Yes	"	
	M25	Excellent*	Hard	Edge	No	Excellent	Fair	Yes	Yes	No	"	*Protection same as M17 series. M24 is aircraft version.
	M25A1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	
	M24	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	
	M9A1	Excellent*	Fair	Edge	No	Good	Good	Yes	Yes	No	"	*Protection same as M17 series. U.S. Navy issue industrial grade mask.
	MK V	Excellent	Hard	Pad	No	Good	Poor	No	Yes	No	"	
United Kingdom	S6	Excellent	Easy	Pad	Yes	Excellent	Excellent	Yes	Yes	No	Nylon	
West Germany	GM-38	Excellent	Fair	Edge	Yes	Poor	Bad	*Yes	Yes	No	Steel Can	*Must cant rifle to get sight picture. None uses neck strap
	Civil Defense	Excellent	Fair	Edge	Yes	Good	Good	Yes	Yes	No	None uses neck strap	
Israel	No. 15A1	Excellent	Fair	*Pad	Yes	Good	Good	Yes	Yes	Yes	None uses neck strap	*Tabs at harness attachment points can interfere with seal when donning mask.

NOTES: A Ruger Mini-14 rifle with low mount sights and an SLR camera were used to test ease of sighting.

Though most governments will order the destruction of defective protective masks and filters, the quality of contract overrun and obsolete surplus material can not be guaranteed once it leaves the control of its government agency of origin. THE BUYER BEWARE!

Gas Masks

A good example of a very bad mask is the Soviet standard issue Model ShM. It is designed to protect its wearer at the expense of operational efficiency. But since the Soviets know where and when they are going to use gas this does not seem to cause them much problems. The mask looks like a cross between a WW1 issue "Rat Faced" mask and a bathing cap. The little round eyelenses tend to fog up quite easily since the mask was designed with poor provision to have air flow keep them clear. Also, there is no inner mask over the mouth and nose to prevent exhaled breath from condensing on the eyelenses. Instead, the Soviets issue an anti-dim set consisting of special cloths and grease crayons meant to be rubbed on the inside of the lens. The filter canister is a WW1 refugee that is heavy, bulky and over effective. It attaches to the facepiece by a rubber hose. A nice feature is that an additional carbon monoxide canister can be connected in series with the standard toxic agent canister. This makes Ivan's motorized troops very happy.

The Model ShM is also issued in two special versions. A communications version is issued to radio operators. It has a voicemitter and cutouts in the bathing cap part for the use of headphones. The Model ShMS is issued to gunners and those troops whose poor eyesight requires corrective lenses. The smaller 40mm eyelenses



The British S6 mask can be donned instantly and will seal on a three-day growth of beard.

are fitted with gelatin anti-dim inserts as were German masks in WW2. The Model ShMS may be found outfitted with the same features as the communications mask.

The British S6 mask is an excellent piece of equipment. This mask provides good vision and is so resistant to fogging there is no anti-dim kit issued with it. The S6 seals on the surface of the face, not the edge of the mask. Consequently, it will seal on even three days growth of beard while other masks require the wearer to shave daily. And to fit the S6 all one needs to do is to slip the harness over the head in a single motion and exhale to clear the inside of the mask. The inside of the mask has a very low volume which enhances peripheral vision and talking through the voicemitter.

A unique feature is the double wall construction of the facepiece. The outer and inner wall of the facepiece is separated by an airspace. The airspace is sealed and has a pressure relief valve for high altitude use. This construction makes the S6 more resistant to penetration by toxic chemical agents.

U.S. masks and others have to be covered with an impermeable butyl rubber hood to protect the wearer from slow poisoning through the facepiece. The British chemical protective suit is made with an attached permeable hood which allows for a more comfortable soldier since 30 percent of all body heat is radiated from the scalp. A kit is available which contains a microphone, a rubber hose and air line connectors which snaps on in less than a minute to convert the S6 for use by vehicle crews. The S6 is available in left- and right-hand versions and utilizes standard NATO screw-in filter canisters.

Emergency Mask—The standard NATO filter canister can be used as an emergency mask by placing the outlet of the canister in the mouth, pinching the nose shut with the fingers, and closing the eyes. This feature gives soldiers the capability to rescue several people who do not have masks from chemical incidents with their extra filter canisters.

How To Conduct An Unmasking Drill

It is just as important to know when to take your mask off, as it is to know when to put it on. Protective masks must be removed only if the leader of your group is sure there is no toxic vapor lingering in the area. Remember to avoid low areas where gas can collect.

If a chemical agent detector kit is available, perform all the tests for toxic vapors and liquids per the instructions that come with the kit. Then, if no toxic vapors are detected, have two people in the group remove their masks for five minutes. They should replace their masks for 10 minutes. They should wait in a shaded area so that the early pinpointing of the pupils of the eyes warning sign for nerve agent poisoning is not mistaken for the effects of bright sunlight. If these soldier/guinea pigs do not show adverse effects then have the rest of the group unmask. Though, everyone should be wary of the onset of chemical agent symptoms in each other.

If no chemical agent detector kit is available, then you must seek out high ground. Have two soldiers hold their breath and break the seal of their masks for 15 seconds while keeping their eyes open.

After clearing and checking the seals of their masks observe the two soldiers for 10 minutes in the shade. If they show no ill effects from toxic agents they can now break the seals of their masks and take two or three shallow breaths. Then they should reseal and clear their masks and again be observed in the shade for 10 minutes.

If they still show no symptoms, they should take their masks off for five minutes, and then remask and be observed for another 10 minutes. Now, if they are still OK the rest of the group may be ordered to unmask. They should continue to watch each other for symptoms.

Unmasking drills are a time consuming proposition, but essential for survival. If you don't have the time for the tests as explained, it is best to stay masked.

Remember to spread the risk of being a human guinea pig about the group for the sake of internal harmony. Use newcomers to the war zone first as these persons are least likely to have been previously exposed to toxic agents. Repeated exposure to small doses of various chemical agents either result in increased resistance or sensitivity which could botch the validity of these unmasking procedures.

Most gas masks are issued with canvas satchels to haul them about. Which is the problem with most masks. Since canvas satchels are not water, gas, tear, crush, soil, contamination, or soldier proof. The old German GM-38 mask of WW2 fame was issued with a tough waterproof metal can type carrier. And commercial industry grade masks can be ordered with a hard plastic case as an option. The point is, that if the mask does not survive the wearer will not either.

The carrier is what nixed the new XM-30 series mask for U.S. Army service. It was found that its full face eyelens could be crushed through the carrier by the weight of the head of a sleeping soldier when it was used as a pillow. Other than that the design of the XM-30 is sound and it has been adopted for use by the U.S. Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps.

The Army modified the XM-30 into the

Fit And Test Your Chemical Protective Mask

THE mask is the right size if it sticks to your face when the head harness is completely loose and you inhale while blocking off the air inlets with your hands. The head harness is adjusted by holding the center patch on the top of the back of the head. Then pull the harness straps taut for a firm fit in this order: bottom first, top second, and middle last. Once fitted remove the mask and replace it in its carrier. To don the mask: open the carrier, pull the mask out, then place your thumbs inside the facepiece and grasp the head harness, bring the facepiece upward placing your chin in the mask, and pull the harness over your head. Clear the mask of bad air by covering the air outlet with your hand and exhaling. Exhale only lightly in very cold weather to prevent eyelens fogging. Test the seal of the mask by covering the air inlets and inhaling. Practice donning the mask daily, you must be able to mask in six seconds.

With your mask on: open a container filled with amyl acetate (banana oil). Dip a cotton swab in amyl acetate and pass it close to where the mask seals to the face, around the eyelens seams, and by the air inlets. Breathing normally you should not be able to smell anything. If you do, refit the mask. If you still smell bananas replace the filters. If this doesn't work try a new mask.

Note: Do not allow amyl acetate to touch the mask. It might cause damage to plastic and rubber parts.



An Army NBC specialist tests a soldier's M17A1 protective mask using a swab dipped in amyl acetate (banana oil).



Soldiers inside a camphor chamber crack the seals on their M17A1 masks as part of an exercise to prove the worth of the protective gear.

XM-40 replacing the full face eyelens with separate eyepieces similar to those on the M17 series masks. Both the XM-30 and XM-40 masks are fitted with drinking tubes and standard NATO filter canister mountings on both sides of the facepiece for use by left- or right-handed persons. Conversion kits are available for use of these masks by vehicle and aircraft crews.

The British Army is currently developing an advanced version of the S6 called the S10 which is being evaluated for use by the U.S. Army. XM-40 is experimental.

The S10 has all of the above features of the S6 and the XM-40 packaged in a design which is eminently suited to modern mass production techniques. An interesting feature of this mask is the circular eyelens which can be ground to the wearer's prescription eliminating the need for awkward corrective lens inserts used on other masks.

Currently, the U.S. military uses several different types of protective masks. The standard infantry mask is the M17 which is a rugged piece of equipment. It has two filter cartridges fitted into its integral cheek pouches. Changing the filters of this mask is a clumsy task which requires dexterity and training to accomplish in a respectable time without tearing the facepiece. The filters are difficult to breath through since like all U.S. masks the M17 is a monument to overprotection. The filters come with black (M13), gold (M13A1) and green (M13A2) connectors, the green connector filters are for combat and the black or gold are used for training and riot duty.

The mask is fitted with eyelens outserts which are like the tear-offs used by motor-

(Continued on page 67)

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Land Navigation:

Don't Get Lost



A map, compass and protractor.

EAH year the nation's front pages report horror stories of outdoor enthusiasts who either perish or suffer frightful deprivations as a result of getting lost in the woods. Such stories reinforce the fact that great tracts of American wilderness exist where a lost hunter or hiker may stumble around for days and even die without being rescued. Hunters, trappers, hikers, and others who seek out remote and wild country and hope to survive in it owe it to themselves to know how to hike into wild country and safely out again.

As a U.S. Army Special Forces medic frequently operating in isolated and sometimes dangerous regions of Asia and Latin America, I soon learned—and later taught—the principles of being able to navigate on land, in any type of terrain. Today, I would no more venture into a strange wilderness without the simple tools of land navigation than I would take off without a knife or cartridges for my rifle. A map, a compass, a protractor, and the skills to use them may some day save your life.

Topo Map—A topographical map of the region you plan to explore or hunt should be the first thing you pack when planning an expedition. Maps of almost any region of the United States may be obtained through the U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, Colorado 80225, or Reston, Virginia 22092. A topographical map is a presenta-

imposed upon it. This grid (a series of straight lines intersecting at right angles) furnishes you with a system of squares similar to the block system of most city streets. It makes navigating easier.

Maps come complete with their own operating instructions printed around the outer edges. Some of the more important items of "Marginal Information" are: the *bar scales*, located in the center of the lower margin; the *legend* in the lower left margin; and the *declination diagram* and the *contour interval note* appearing near the center of the lower margin.

The *bar scales* are rulers used to convert map distance to ground distance. Most maps have at least three scales measuring kilometers, statute miles, and nautical miles.

The *legend* illustrates and identifies topographical symbols used to depict some of the more prominent natural and man-made features on the map—forests, streams, buildings, roads. The symbols are usually color-coded, with each color identifying a class of features. On most standard, large-scale topographical maps,

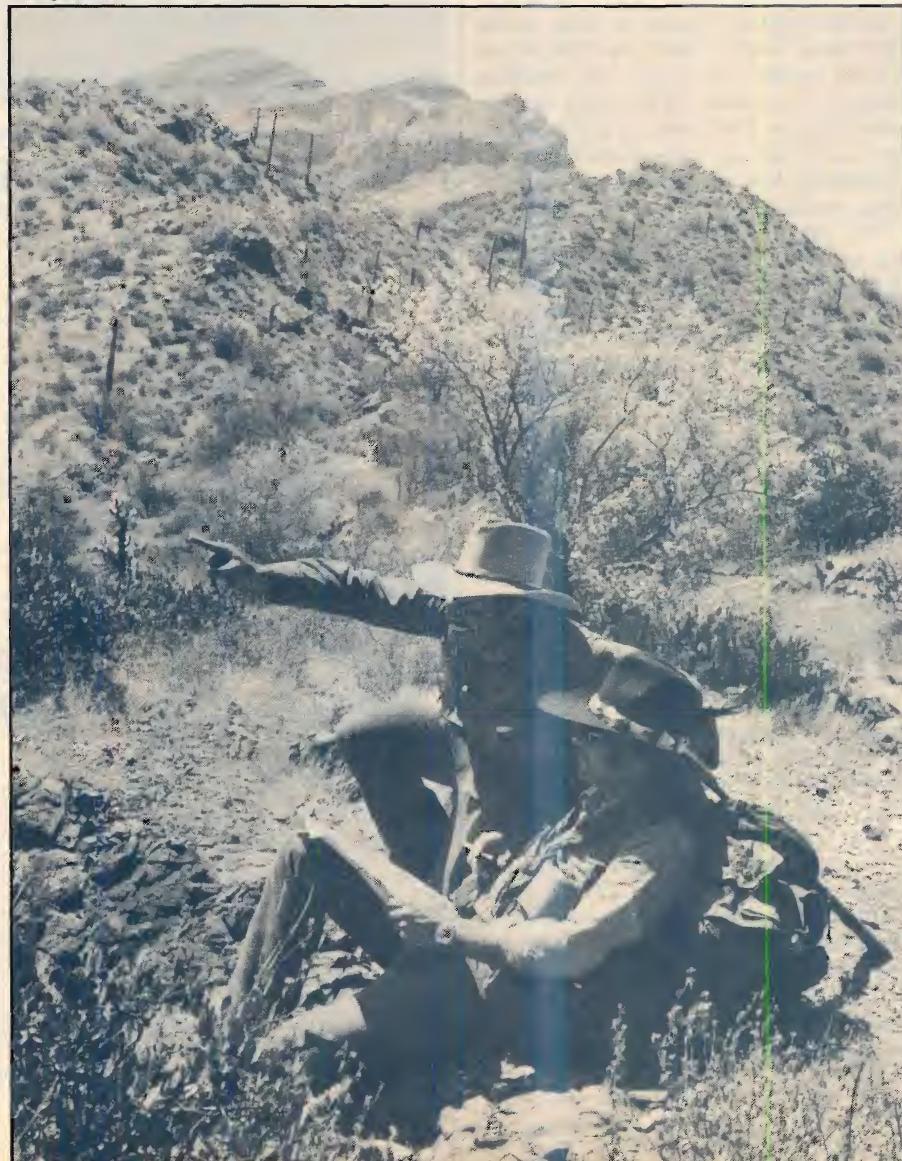
A map, compass, protractor and the skills to use them may some day save your life . . .

By Charles W. Sasser

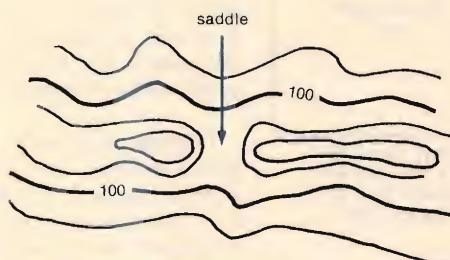
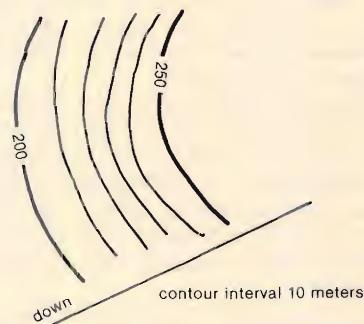
tion of the earth's surface plotted to scale upon a flat surface. A scale of 1:25,000 or 1:50,000 means that one unit on the map equals 25,000 or 50,000 such units on the earth's surface.

When obtaining a map, make sure it is the military-type with a grid system super-

The author, pointing, and a friend use a map and other tools of navigation while crossing Arizona's rugged Superstition Mountains. Great tracts of wilderness exist in the U.S. where you can get lost and die.

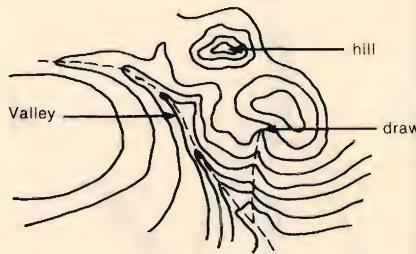


The spacing of contour lines indicates the nature of the slope. On most maps every fifth line is drawn heavier with the elevation given in either meters or feet above sea level somewhere along its length. This is the Index Contour.

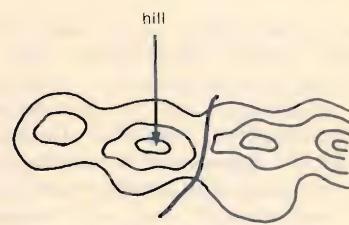


A saddle between two hills.

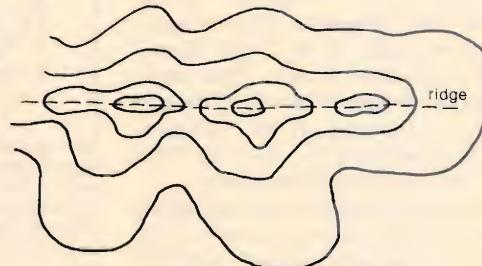
Shapes of contour lines and their spacings indicate terrain features.



A valley, a hill and a draw; the contour lines point upstream in a valley.



Bottom of a hill.



A ridgeline.

the following colors are used: *Black*—cultural or man-made features; *Blue*—lakes, rivers, swamps; *Green*—vegetation such as woods, orchards, vineyards; *Brown*—relief features such as contours; *Red*—main roads, built-up areas, special features.

The *declination diagram* illustrates the angular relationship of true north, grid north, and magnetic north. It is important in navigating with a compass. We are primarily interested in the difference between grid north and magnetic north.

Important for determining the lay of the land is the *contour interval note* which gives the vertical measurement between adjacent contour lines. A contour line connects points of equal elevation. For example, a contour interval of 10 meters means that the earth rises or falls 10 meters between each contour line shown on the map. On most maps, contour lines are printed in brown, with every fifth line drawn heavier. This is the *index contour*; somewhere along its length its elevation is given in either meters or feet above sea level.

Elevation Relief—The spacing of contour lines indicates the nature of the slope. The closer the contour lines to each other, the steeper the slope. Shapes of contour lines and their spacings form terrain features, such as hills, valleys, ridgelines, saddles, cliffs, and slopes.

Orientation—In order to use a map, you must first orient it so that north on the map corresponds to north on the ground

and the map represents the terrain around you. There are two ways to do this.

If there are prominent terrain features nearby, you may simply hold the map open in your two hands with the upper (north) portion of the map facing away from you. Then turn your entire body slowly until the terrain features on the map correspond with the terrain features on the ground. The more terrain features you can identify, the more certain the orientation.

A more accurate way of orienting the map is with the compass.

Place a map flat on the ground with the compass on the declination diagram at the bottom. Align the compass index along the line marked *grid north* so that the compass is aligned north and south with the north-south grid lines on the map. Then rotate map and compass until the compass needle aligns itself with the line marked *magnetic north*. The map is then oriented.

Azimuth—In everyday life, directions are commonly expressed as "north" or "south" or "southeast," but such expressions of direction are highly inaccurate. They may, in fact, be all but useless if you are lost in heavily wooded terrain and must depend upon map and compass to find your way out to the only settlement within 50 miles. That's when it becomes necessary to use more precise measurements of directions called *azimuths*.

An azimuth is one of 350 horizontal angles measured clockwise from a north base line of 0 degrees or 360 degrees. An azimuth of 90 degrees, for example, is due east, while 180 degrees is due south, 270

degrees due west, and 0 degrees or 360 degrees is due north. You may find your azimuth on the map with the use of a protractor. A protractor is a coordinated scale measuring out the 360 degrees of a circle.

Say you are located at the junction of a creek and a river which you have identified and you want to travel northeast to a road intersection positioned in the upper portion of the map.

First, draw a straight line from your location to the road intersection.

Next, position the index crosshairs in the center of the protractor on the line. The north (0 degrees) marking on the protractor should point precisely to the north on the map. You may move the crosshairs on the line until you can align the protractor with the grid lines on the map to assure more accuracy.

Read your azimuth where your drawn line intersects the outer edge of the protractor circle.

Let's say the azimuth from your location on the river to the road intersection is 45 degrees. On most places of the earth, you will not be able to reach your destination by following 45 degrees on your compass. That is because of the angular difference between *grid north* on your map and *magnetic north* on your compass. According to the amount of that difference, called the *Grid-Magnetic Angle* (G-M Angle), you may miss your destination by one hundred feet—or a mile or more.

Bearing—The G-M Angle is determined by use of the declination diagram located in the map's marginal information. The

Don't Get Lost

amount of the angle is always noted. For example, Tenino, Washington, has a declination of 21 degrees east. Webbers Falls, Oklahoma, has an 8½-degree easterly declination. Columbus, Georgia, is located at 0 degrees with no declination. There, and along that meridian north and south, your azimuth and your compass bearing will be the same. Otherwise, you will have to adjust your grid azimuth by the amount of the G-M Angle in order to get an accurate compass bearing, also called a *magnetic azimuth*.

Declination may be either east or west. The direction is illustrated on the declination diagram by the "Magnetic North" arrow. If the "Magnetic North" arrow points to the right of the "Grid North" line, the declination is east. This means your compass points to the east of the grid north line on the map. If the "Magnetic North" arrow points to the left of the "Grid North" line, the declination is west.

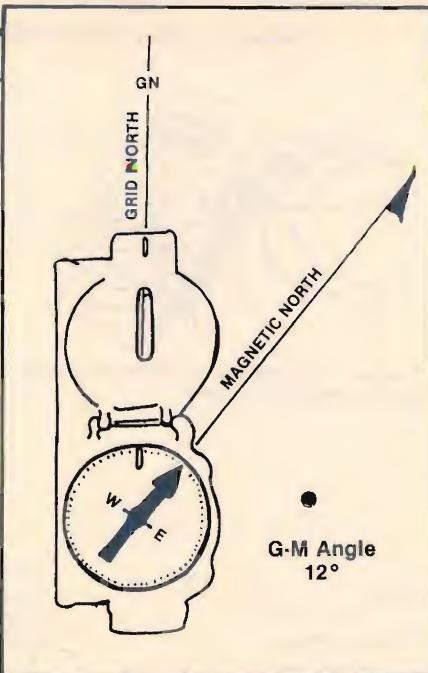
A formula accompanies each declination diagram to explain how to convert a grid azimuth to a magnetic azimuth and back again. A map with an easterly declination will instruct: "To convert a magnetic azimuth to a grid azimuth, ADD G-M ANGLE. To convert a grid azimuth to a magnetic azimuth, SUBTRACT G-M ANGLE." If the map has a westerly declination, it will instruct just the opposite. In other words, you will SUBTRACT where it says ADD and ADD where it says SUBTRACT.

Let's say you are on the Arkansas River at Webbers Falls, Oklahoma, where the declination (G-M Angle) is 8½ degrees east. We've already established your grid azimuth at 45 degrees. SUBTRACT 8½ degrees from your grid azimuth of 45 degrees in order to convert it to a magnetic azimuth. The answer is 36½ degrees, which is the bearing you will follow on your compass in order to reach that road intersection.

For practice, what is your magnetic azimuth if your grid azimuth is 88 degrees with a 12-degree easterly declination? What is your grid azimuth if your magnetic azimuth is 198 degrees with a 4-degree westerly declination? (Answers at end)

Resection—But let's say you don't know exactly where you are, which would make it most difficult to obtain either a grid or a magnetic azimuth. You can determine your location if you can identify two separate and distinct terrain features, such as two hilltops or a saddle and a river, by a process known as *resection*.

First, take your compass and shoot a *magnetic azimuth* from your location to one of the terrain features. Then determine your "back azimuth," or the azimuth from the terrain feature back to you. Do this by adding 180 degrees to your magnetic azimuth if the azimuth is less than



Orienting a map with a compass using the declination diagram. A map is oriented when the compass index is aligned with grid north and the compass needle is aligned with magnetic north.

180 degrees; subtract 180 degrees if the azimuth is greater than 180 degrees. For example, if the magnetic azimuth is 37 degrees from you to the terrain feature, add 180 degrees to get a *back azimuth* of 217 degrees. If your magnetic azimuth is 194 degrees, subtract 180 degrees for a back azimuth of 14 degrees.

Take this back azimuth and adjust for the G-M Angle, in order to plot your location on your map. If the declination is 8½ degrees easterly, follow the formula on the map and ADD the G-M Angle. Say your back azimuth is 217 degrees. Add 8½ degrees to 217 degrees to get a grid azimuth of 225½ degrees. Remember, a *grid azimuth* applies only to your map, a *magnetic azimuth* to your compass.

Using your protractor, now draw a straight line from the selected terrain feature along your grid back azimuth, which, in this case, is 225½ degrees.

Now, follow this same process with your second terrain feature. Where your two lines cross on the map is your location.

Do not attempt to merely "follow the compass." Break the course down into legs. Shoot an azimuth to a terrain feature, walk to that feature, shoot a second azimuth, and continue this process, leg by leg, until you reach your destination.

Distance—Distance is an important factor in land navigation, especially at night or in heavily wooded country. *Pacing* is probably the most common method of measuring the distance you have traveled. One pace is equal to one natural step.

To determine your personal pace count, measure off a specified distance, usually one hundred meters, and walk it several times to see how many paces you must take

to cover the distance. Walk at a natural pace. *Average* out the number of paces by the times you walked the distance, and that is your personal pace count. The average man uses 116 paces to travel 100 meters on level ground.

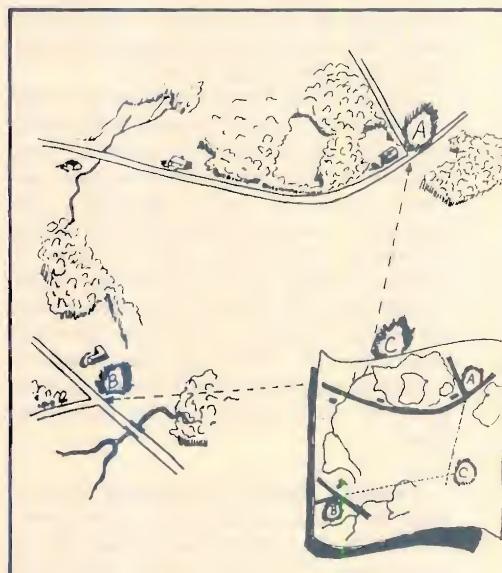
Remember, varying conditions of terrain and weather will affect your pace count. As a general guide, walking downhill shortens your pace count, uphill lengthens it. Your pace count can also be affected by wind, rain, snow, the amount of clothing you are wearing, fatigue, and the type of walking surface.

On a long hike, you can keep count of the distance traveled by tying knots in a string or cord or by transferring pebbles from one pocket to the other. After each 100 meters, tie a knot in the string or slip a pebble from one pocket to the other.

Practice—Although not difficult, navigating on land is an acquired skill which requires practice. The best way to practice is to take a map of an area you know well, a compass, and a protractor, and practice the basic skills of land navigation—reading a map, reading and converting grid and magnetic azimuths, following a bearing, resectioning, pacing.

Only by learning the skills of navigating in the wilderness, practicing them to become efficient, and then taking the tools of navigation with you into the field can you ever be assured that the newspapers' front pages will not be reporting your own horror story of getting lost in the woods.

(NOTE: Answers to practice questions: 76 degrees; 194 degrees.) ●



Resectioning to find exactly where you are. Locate two prominent terrain features on the ground and on your map (here, the road intersects at A and B). Shoot a magnetic (compass) azimuth to each terrain feature, convert to grid azimuth in order to coordinate on your map. Where the two azimuths cross on back azimuth (Point C) is your location.

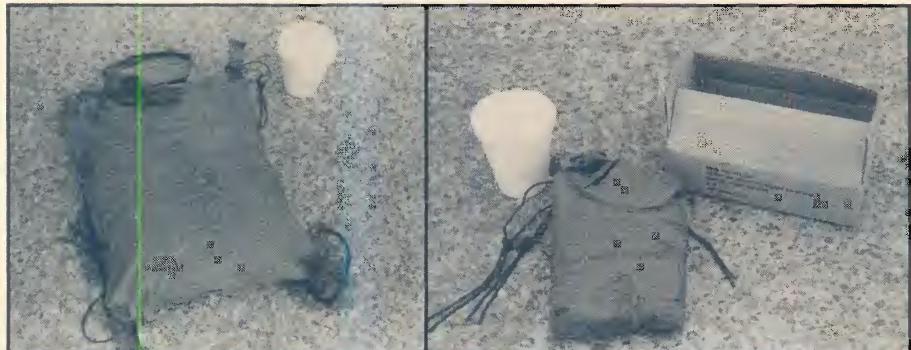
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Night Vision Devices

(Continued from page 22)

rently at the "hand-held" stage of development, the thermal-image viewer will probably soon be in use on military tanks and similar equipment and might even be available on the commercial market soon. If so, active equipment will have gone full circle to become passive in its own right.

Because of the limitations of current active systems, most people needing night vision equipment purchase passive devices. These viewers use available light rather than their own light source; city glow, moonlight, star light, or any other dim light will enable the user of the scope to see his surroundings.

The passive units were developed in the 1960s and are based around an image intensifier similar to a TV camera. The unit boosts the contrasts in the light and dark patterns from 75,000 to 85,000 times the brightness of the original pattern and project them onto a view screen. In addition to gathering light in the visible spectrum, passive devices are designed to be sensitive to infrared light so that they can detect active devices. Those who use active equipment should take note.

The passive system does have its drawback: it must have some light to work. On a cloudy night when the moon isn't out and no city lights are present, the passive scopes won't allow the user to see much of anything.

There are two generations of passive night vision devices, with a third generation in development.

The first generation is good provided it isn't necessary to view areas which are partly lit by electric lights, flares, or even tracers fired from your rifle. If you do view such an area, streaking and blooming can result which will cause parts of the screen to glow with after-images of the light



Varo's AIM model 9886 projects a dot on the target which is visible only with night vision equipment.

source for a few moments and the unit may actually shut down if things get too bright for it.

First generation equipment is still made because it does have some important pluses: it's rugged, it has one third more gain of vision in dark areas than does the second generation equipment, its resolution is sharper, and first generation equipment is less expensive than second generation. (AN/PVS-1, 2, and 3 are 1st generation scopes; AN/PVS-4 and 5 are second generation while AN/PVS-7 is the proposed third generation scope.)

Second generation passive devices are smaller than first generation and can be used to view partially lit areas without

blooming or streaking. Second generation equipment is well suited to use in cities or where electrical lights may be present in the viewing area.

Finally, there are hybrids of night vision equipment. One interesting combination of passive and active equipment is Varo's AIM/G2-3 Goggle Weaponsight System which uses passive goggles to give the user night vision and an infrared flasher unit mounted on his weapon to allow him to aim it by positioning an invisible dot on his target. Before long we'll probably also see divergent beam infrared lasers coupled with active viewers.

Batteries—Whatever equipment you purchase, get a lot of spare batteries. Most of the equipment—especially passive systems—is very sensitive to the voltage used with it. Trying to use too much power will quickly ruin an expensive night vision scope. Something else to keep in mind when shopping for a night vision scope: some of them have adapter units which allow you to use batteries available at the corner store rather than only the special batteries designed for the unit. This could be a really important plus from a survival standpoint and merits your consideration.

With night vision equipment, the old saying that "if you have to ask the price, you can't afford it" may well be true. A good passive unit is going to cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$2,000 to \$15,000 while active vision scope will range from \$400 to \$2,000.

Men in dangerous nighttime situations have probably always wished they could see in the dark. Now it is possible to see and strike out at an enemy while you remain nearly invisible. The cloak of dark-



Excaliber's AN/TVS-5, top, and AN/PVS-4 night vision scopes.

ness is quickly vanishing from those who have used the night to hide in. •

List Of Manufacturers Of Night Vision Equipment

Aimpoint, Dept. ASG,
203 Eden Street, Suite 302
Herndon, VA 22070
(Various types of electronic "red dot" scopes)

A.R.M.S. Dept. ASG,
230 West Center St.
West Bridgewater, MA 02379
(Scope bases for AR-15/M16, HK-91/93/94, and FN-FAL rifles which allows easy mounting of night vision scopes as well as standard 1-inch scopes)

Armscor of America, Inc., Dept. ASG,
9162 Brookville Rd.
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(Night vision goggles, etc.)

Armscor, Inc., Dept. ASG,
P.O. Box 2130
Farmington Hills, MI 48018
(Luminous Inserts sights for firearms and Armscor O.E.G. dot scope)

Bushnell, Dept. ASG,
2828 E. Foothill Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107
("Banner Lite-scopes" electronic "dot" scopes for rifles)

Cherokee Gun Accessories, Dept. ASG,
830 Woodside Rd.
Redwood City, CA 94061
(Cheekpiece for use on military-style rifles with scopes.)

Colt Firearms, Dept. ASG,
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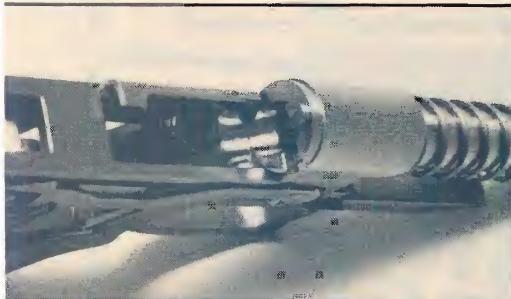


The Pocket .380, like all Detonics guns, is made of stainless steel. It is lightweight, small yet fits your palm well.

Pocket .380

One of the last of the famed stainless steel offerings by Detonics, this little handgun, with the right loads, can be a good defensive weapon . . .

By Phil Figueroa



The feed ramp and barrel are ramped, throated and polished right from the factory.

THE DETONICS POCKET .380! Billed as the "sister" of the world's smallest production 9mm Parabellum pistol, the Pocket 9, this little stainless steel handgun followed a succession of well-received pistols by a very dynamic Bellevue, Washington-based company.

I was fortunate enough to have tested one of their original pistols shortly after Detonics Firearms Industries was founded in 1976. That model, a scaled down version of John Browning's famed 1911-A1 Colt, was later named the Combat Master. Like they claimed, it was the smallest production .45 ACP around, and with even warm loads, it would bite the hand that held it.

A number of accessories were introduced in later years, along with their full-

sized Servicemaster and Scoremaster. Both were chambered for the .45 ACP cartridge, while the last was also chambered for the massive .451 Detonics Magnum. It wasn't long before their engineers introduced other versions of pocket-sized guns, namely the Power 9, Pocket 9, Pocket 9LS (Long Slide), and the Pocket .380.

The key visible difference between these 9mm Parabellum pistols and the Pocket .380 is the latter features a fixed rear sight atop a flat slide. A tiny Allen set screw locks it in place, and by loosening the screw, windage corrections are easily made by sliding the sight to right or left, then



The Pocket .380 features a fixed barrel, thus accuracy is somewhat improved. The recoil spring is held in place by the barrel bushing.

locking it in with the Allen screw.

The sights offer a pretty good picture, even though they are quite small. Whereas the little nines weigh only 26 ounces empty, the Pocket .380, chambered for the .380 ACP (Automatic Colt Pistol) weighs only 23 ounces empty. Quite popular in the U.S., the .380 ACP is widely used all over the world. It is also known as the 9mm Browning Short, 9mm Corto, or 9mm Kurz (Short). Many European law enforcement agencies have used this cartridge as their standard duty round, but very few countries have ever adopted it as their official military cartridge.

A major reason for the military shying away from it is the low power it produces. The .380 cartridge accepts the same .355-inch diameter bullet as the 9mm Parabellum (Luger) round, although its case is .074-inch shorter (slightly more than 1/16-inch). That extra bit of powder space in the heavier walled, longer Luger cartridge is enough to boost velocity as much as 300 fps faster, enough to make a big difference.

Another drawback few seem to realize with this cartridge is the fact that full metal case loads are virtually worthless in it, yet this is the one most people shoot. Something like the 88-grain Speer Jacketed Hollow Point bullet, pushed along at around 1,050 fps (plenty safe in this gun), is more likely to perform as a defensive round. The Pocket .380 wasn't developed for combat shooting or target work, so if you're going to own a defense gun, then you should use defense-type ammo.

Relative to the double action Pocket .380 itself, it fit the author's fairly large-sized hand well, even though the little finger wraps about the bottom of the butt. Like the Browning-designed Colt, the mag release button is on the left of the frame, right behind the trigger. It does feature an ambidextrous blocked firing pin safety, which though very small, functions with a hard push of the thumb. When the safety lever is flipped upward, the firing pin is simultaneously moved forward out of the reach of the hammer and locked into place. This not only prevents the hammer from striking the firing pin if the trigger is pulled, but also prevents a discharge of the weapon should it be dropped or receive a



The Pocket .380 stripped to its basic components.



sharp blow to the muzzle.

A hooked and serrated trigger guard affords a good purchase where you might want to use two hands, such as in a serious shooting situation. The factory has also polished the feed ramp and barrel throat, so the gun will feed more reliably. While the magazine will handle only six rounds, you can carry one more in the chamber for a total of seven. Before inserting a loaded magazine, one should always slip the safety lever up into the SAFE position, so the red dot is covered. With the safety still on, point the pistol in a safe direction and pull the trigger. It will automatically drop the hammer (which is quite small, and therefore difficult to thumb back manually should you want to fire a first round single action).

The inertial firing pin is shorter than its housing and is held in place by a spring and will not protrude beyond the breech-face of the slide until it is forced out by the

impact of the hammer. The hammer can reach the firing pin only when the safety lock is in the off or "fire" position.

A fixed barrel double action pistol, the author found the Pocket .380 well made. Its soft matte sheen looks good. However, one of the worst features, in the author's opinion, is the great amount of strength required to pull the slide to the rear just to chamber that initial round. It's tough, believe me. When it comes to shooting and accuracy, the Pocket .380 digested an abundance of factory loads with gusto. It also proved to be reasonably accurate at defense ranges up to around 10 yards or so.

Everything considered, I found it to be a pretty good gun. As stated above, the effort required to work that slide is likely to sour a few people, however. If you are firing a lot of ammo and start off with seven rounds, then reload after six, you won't have to worry about the slide because you'll always have a chambered

round in it. The slide stays to the rear after the last round is fired, so if you change mags then, you'll find yourself pulling the slide back manually and releasing it to chamber the next round. •

Detonics Pocket .380: Tech Specs

Model	Detonics Pocket .380
Action	Double/single action
Caliber	.380 ACP
Length	5 1/4 inches
Height	4 1/4 inches
Weight	23 ounces, empty
Barrel length	3 inches
Sights	Fixed
Capacity	6 rounds + 1 chambered
Material	Stainless steel
Finish	Soft matte finish
Safety	Ambidextrous firing pin safety
Suggested list price	\$457.95
Manufacturer	Detonics Firearms Industries 13456 S.E. 27th Place, Bellevue, WA 98005

Chopping, Cutting:

El Machete!

In a pinch you can do just about anything with a machete . . .

By Craig A. Doherty

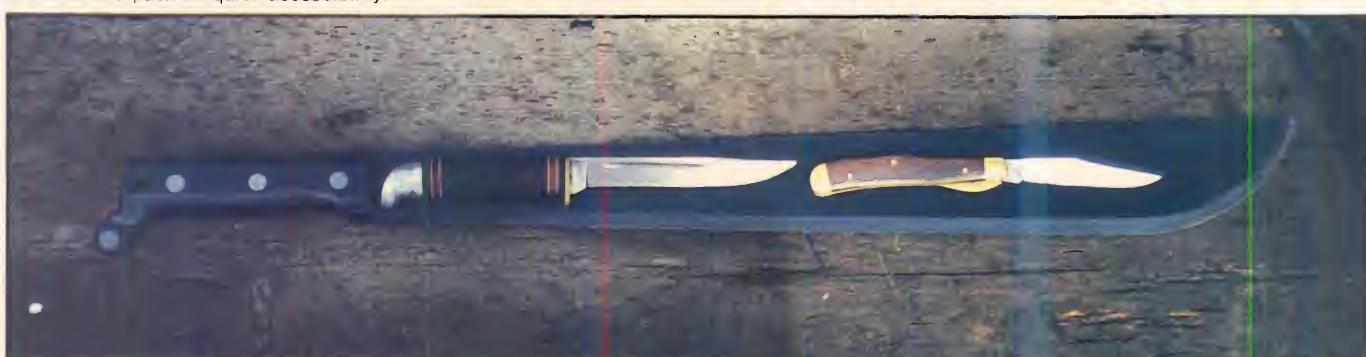
EL DIABLO! El Diablo!" The cane cutter yelled as a huge black shape came roaring out of the smoke of the burning cane field.

The black devil reared up on his hind legs showing his full 350 pounds of muscle teeth and claws. The cane cutters were trapped by their fear and stood directly in the apparition's path. As it came forward one brave cutter, machete in hand, leaped up and attacked.



This 17-inch blade machete can be easily attached to a pack for quick accessibility.

From left, the 13-inch Blade Bowie-style machete, 17-inch blade machete with copper wire wrapped handle, 18-inch blade general purpose machete, 28-inch blade extra long machete, 18-inch blade U.S. Army machete, 13-inch blade Bolo model, 12-inch blade small machete, and, horizontally, 20-inch blade African pattern machete.



The author's three-knife set: an 18-inch blade military issue machete with hunting knife and single-blade folder.

Five or six others joined him in the charge and the devil was soon dead. Hacked to death by the cutters' machetes. They later learned that they had dispatched a 350-pound black bear that had been munching on ripe sugar cane when the field had been set on fire. The Florida Fish and Game Department felt that, considering the circumstances, there was no reason to issue any citations.

The cane cutters had once again proven what the peasants of Latin America have known for centuries: in a pinch you can do just about anything with a machete. The machete can replace a small axe, a clever, a butcher knife, a scythe and, in a pinch, a shovel. As a weapon it extends your reach and definitely intimidates any would-be assailant.

In the more expected uses of the machete there is no more versatile tool. Granted it doesn't have any fish hooks in its handle and you can't get one in camo, although there is a current military model that has a parkerized 18-inch blade that is available from Atlanta Cutlery, 911 Center St., Box 839ASG, Conyers, GA 30207; (800) 241-3595. But I have better places for my fishing gear and don't wear a machete when I am hunting in camo. However, around camp it's indispensable. The following scenario will give you an example of just how handy a machete can be.

On a recent Deer hunting trip we planned to camp out, to be on our stands at first light without the noise of our trucks crossing our hunting turf. I drew the short straw and got to set up camp while my two hunting partners did a little last minute scouting. The spot we had chosen was nicely sheltered but a little small. I grabbed my 17-inch machete and quickly eliminated some over hanging branches, some long grass and some bushes that were in the wrong place. Next I set up the tent, and since the forecast called for rain during the night I used my machete to dig a ditch around the tent to divert any ground water. I then dug, with my machete, a small pit for the fire and lined it with rocks. All this digging had dulled the first four inches of the blade so I got out my stone. I use a long thin stone, and I moved it along the stationary blade, and quickly restored the edge on the carbon steel. Carbon steel is easy to sharpen but will not hold an edge as long as some of the stainless steels being used. I then begin gathering firewood.

The machete made short work of cutting the dead limbs I gathered to size. With the fire started and the coffee pot stationed on a flat rock next to the fire I started to get dinner ready. I set the machete aside and picked up its 12-inch companion and quickly reduced a bag of onions and potatoes to a mass of sizzling home fries. By the time my partners returned I had the potatoes almost ready and a hot bed of coals to sear the steaks over. After dinner when one of my buddies headed for the latrine he grabbed the 17-inch machete to



The author's 5-year-old daughter with the 28-inch blade extra long machete from Atlanta Cutlery.

dig and fill with. The next day I shot a good size Muley, and by the time we had venison steaks on the grill we had used both the 17- and 12-inch machetes.

At other times I have used the machete to build lean-tos and when winter camping the 17-inch machete makes a great snow knife for igloo building.

Around the farm I constantly find uses for the machete. In the garden it is really an all purpose tool. In fact in Latin America it is primarily an agricultural tool. It cuts weeds and brush with ease. It harvests corn, grain and beans and finds heavy use chopping everything that goes into my compost pile, the finer the material the quicker it composts. If I need to cut and sharpen some bean poles I reach for a machete.

Selecting the right machete isn't really that difficult. Atlanta Cutlery for instance lists 9 models to choose from, ranging in price from \$4.95 for the 12-inch small machete and the 13-inch Bowie-style machete to \$10.50 for the 18-inch black U.S. machete. O.D. canvas sheaths run from \$1.95 to \$2.75 extra, based on length.

My two favorites are the 12-inch machete which H. Morgan Smith, founder of the USAF Tropic Survival School and eight foreign training programs, calls the most useful tool the outdoorsman can own; and the 17 inch with the copper wire handle. The wire handle really improves your grip, especially when doing sweaty jobs like cutting brush. I would suggest, considering the price, that you try a couple. The ones with the wide blade tips give you more force when chopping and the 28-inch extra long really takes a strong arm to wield effectively. As the pictures indicate I have one of each, sent to me by Bill Adams, president of Atlanta Cutlery, I've been trying to decide which ones to keep and which ones to send back. Maybe choosing one is harder than I thought because I think I'll keep them all. •

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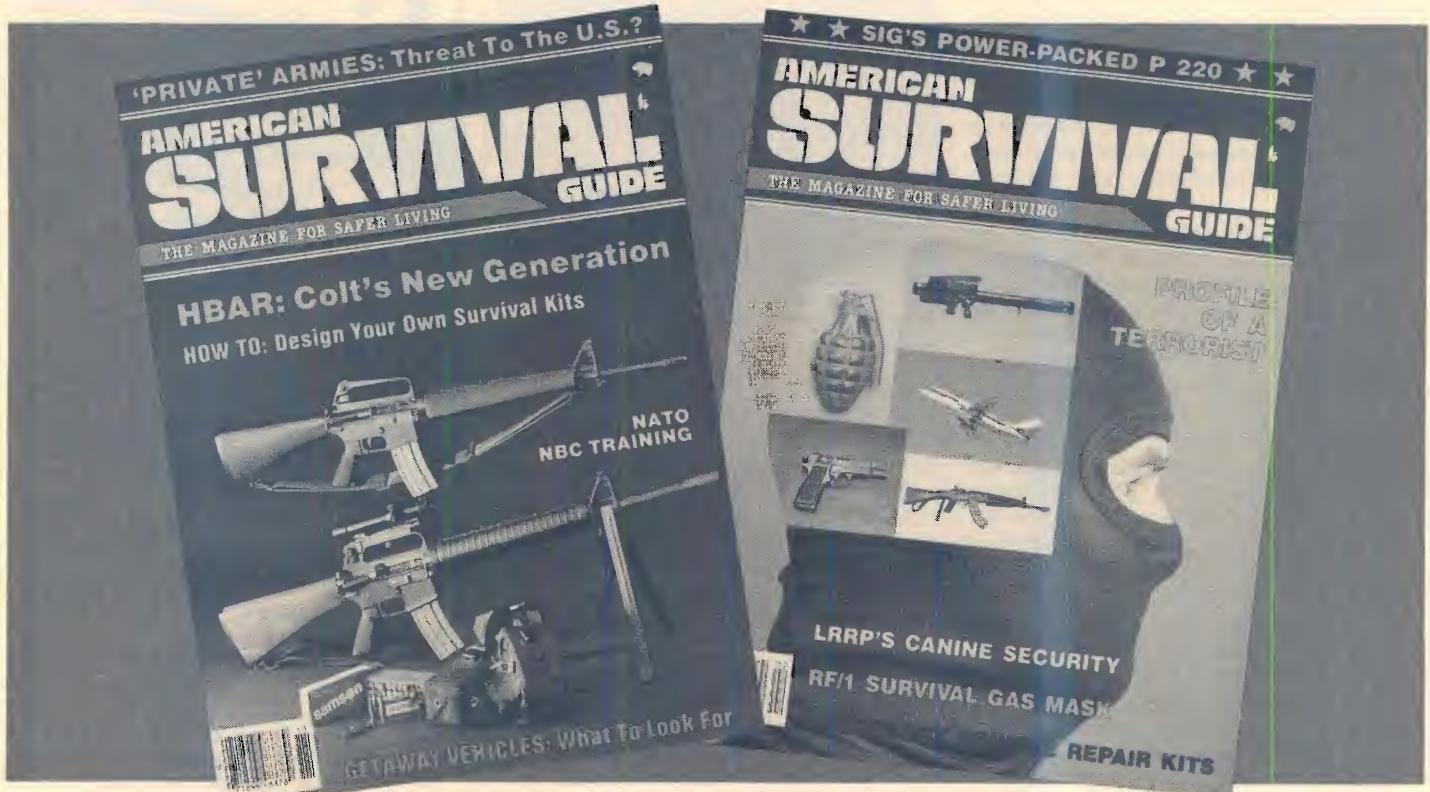
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ASG 0701
Ft. Worth, Texas, "Old timers for survival" intelligence exchange and barter.

ASG 0702
Tacoma, Washington, Live Free member wishes to join or start survival group in Oly/Tacoma area. No Racists, Nazi's or "Ducks" Please.

ASG 0703
Mr. Alry, North Carolina, seeking patriotic members to form a combat survivalist team. Also would like to contact other such teams anywhere in the United States.

ASG 0704
Albuquerque, New Mexico, interested in networking with and forming a group with the "other survivalist"—Followers of Ruth Montgomery, Edgar Cayce, etc. or those interested in working with same.

ASG 0705
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, seeks contact with persons interested in forming a survival group in Allegheny and surrounding counties, and interaction with fellow Live Free members in western Pennsylvania.

ASG 0706
Central Montana, three persons would like to make contact with others to form group and possible retreat in upper Rocky Mountains of Montana with possibility of co-ownership of land. Also correspondence around the world. Couples, females are also welcome.

ASG 0707
Central Tennessee, young survivalist interested in starting a survival group in this area. No bigots, KKK or fanatics please.

ASG 0708
Edwards, Missouri, multi-talented? Compatible? Want to relocate? Couple established in self-sufficiency (debt free) would correspond on starting a group. No radicals.

ASG 0709
Tri-Cities, Washington, Christian family seeks contact or inter-communication with Christian survivalist groups. We need info to prepare ourselves.

ASG 0710
Hixon, Tennessee, long time Christian survivalists, man and wife would like to relocate with someone who has a farm, ranch, etc. away from the cities. We are not drifters, bums or freeloaders, have much to offer.

ASG 0711
Franklin, Kentucky, would like to contact serious survivalists in Kentucky/Tennessee area. Interested in any information pertaining to survivalism and self-sufficiency. Promise to respect privacy. Attention all armchair survivalists, get up and write! Your knowledge could someday save lives. If you are not in Kentucky/Tennessee area, write anyway, I will reply to all. Kooks, crazies, etc. save your stamp.

ASG 0712
Southwestern Pennsylvania, physician survivalist inter-

ested in contacting other survivalists or survival groups, particularly in the Butler County area. No racists.

ASG 0713

Madison, Tennessee, 26-year-old former soldier in U.S. Army, backwoodsman, "wants to hear" from Australian survivalists, active duty soldiers serving Great Britain, veterans loyal to the crown with similar interests in survival skills, wildlife, etc., for correspondence.

ASG 0714

Florida, South Georgia and Alabama, serious survivalist group to begin serious training this summer. Need groups and individuals from Florida, Alabama and Georgia. Instructors needed also. No experience needed for members. Serious survivalists only need apply. No kooks or neo-nazis.

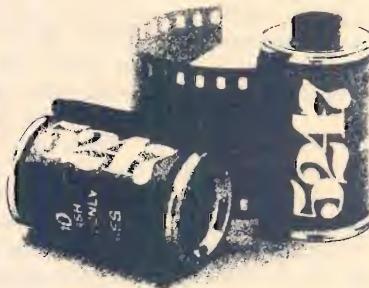
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Staying Afloat:

Water Survival Basics

Each year more and more people take to the water as a form of recreation . . .

By David Marshall Brahosky

THE following is an excerpt from the *San Francisco Chronicle*, reprinted here by permission. Names and actual locations have been changed to spare the family of the victim any further grief.

Victim Identified in Kings County
The Kings County Sheriffs Department yesterday identified the remains of a man found on the bank of the Tule River as 39-year-old Russell P. Curtis of Tipton. Curtis was last seen clinging to a beach ball as he was swept down river over a week ago, according to investigating officers.

There are two tragedies here. First and foremost is the loss of a husband and father, and a family now struggling to overcome grief and go on living again. The second tragedy is that the first one might have been prevented.



An ice chest supporting 380 pounds of adults, despite being half full of water.



Drink jug at left is empty and can be tossed a considerable distance. Jug on right (foreground) is full of water.

Each year more and more people take to the water as a form of recreation. Many are first timers, new to fast boats, backcountry adventure and open water fishing. In the uncertain future, many more may do so as a means to gather food. Without a working knowledge of water survival basics, variations of the newspaper clipping reprinted here will be an all too common sight.

This article is not only meant for the experienced seaman and pleasure boater, but also for the many newcomers to such activity. Even those who simply enjoy walking along the beach, or fishing from a public pier, may one day be called upon to come to the aid of a drowning victim.

There are two equally important priorities in such an emergency. They are to keep the head of the victim out of the water, and to keep him or her afloat till a rescue can be effected. This is easier than it sounds, although to a first time rescuer, in the clutches of panic and indecision,

difficult to remember. An hour in a shallow cove or supervised swimming pool practicing the techniques outlined here will go a long way toward preparing one for such an event.

Stage one of a rescue is helping the victim stay afloat till he or she can be safely removed from the water. I say safely because some well meaning rescuers have themselves been pulled under and drowned by the original victim. Instinct #1 of that victim is to grab hold of anything in his panic that he thinks will save him. If that thing is an untrained swimmer, and the victim any larger than a small child, two deaths may well result. You can however, use that "clutching" instinct to your advantage as a rescuer.

Found in areas people use for water recreation are common items that will support the weight of even a large person in the water. Such items as cold drink jugs, styrofoam and molded plastic coolers, buckets, and boat fenders are all effective floatation devices.

Shown in the accompanying photographs is one of my Navy shipmates, a man who is 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighs about 190 pounds. All the items pictured here kept this man comfortably afloat in a swimming pool. They are typical of the many brand name items that can be bought or rented almost anywhere.

Most common is the ice chest. After



This man has the handle of an empty bucket hooked to his belt. His hands float easily at his sides.

most of the pictures for this article were taken, I discovered that the chest had shipped water and was almost half full during most of the shooting. Neither he nor I were aware of this at the time. Yet it still supported the weight of two grown men in the water with ease. The lesson? Even if that ice chest is half full of food, sodas, or beer and ice, if seconds count, don't even bother to unload it. Get it in the water. The sooner you can arrest the panic of a swimmer in trouble the better. Often-times the victim will thrash him or herself into exhaustion and be unable to hold onto whatever flotation device has been thrown to them. Not only can it be used for flotation, it will also serve as a tow device that will keep you at a safe distance from the rescuer.

It's important that whatever object used in the rescue attempt have a handle or be easily grasped. In the case of the late Russell Curtis, either someone threw a beach ball to him when they realized he was in trouble, or he simply happened to be near it in the water at the time. We'll never know. A would-be rescuer should remember this incident, and remember also that a large round plastic ball is not an easy thing to hold onto in the water even in the best of times.

It was found during our swimming pool evaluations that the best devices of those tested were the 5-gallon bucket and the 3-gallon cold drink jugs. These were easy to hold onto, being small enough to clasp to the chest or hold in both hands under the chin. They did, however, make swimming any distance difficult.

It was also found that there is no need to empty this item either.

During the first 45 minutes of testing, the drink jug was used half full of water. As an additional experiment, I then filled the jug completely, replaced the lid, and managed to throw its 25 pounds 40 feet to



The children in this family are outfitted with life preservers whenever they go on an outing near the water.

A two-person fishing boat with five life saving devices in it. Can you spot them?



my companion. A non-athletic or small statured adult, and young people as well, may want to take the few seconds needed to empty one of these containers should it need to be thrown any distance. It's important to remember that even when full, **THIS ITEM WILL SUPPORT THE ENTIRE WEIGHT OF A LARGE ADULT IN THE WATER.**

The big bucket pictured is typical of similar articles found aboard most boats for such things as stowage of anchor line, bait, fishing tackle, or even used as a makeshift cooler. With the lid in place, or even inverted in the water without the lid, this was the most buoyant device of all the ones pictured.

It's flotation properties, as well as the drink jugs, can be enhanced by attaching it to your clothing. This can be done by simply buckling your belt through the carry handle. This allows the hands to be freed for such things as grabbing a rescue line or pole. Or, in the case of a sinking or otherwise stricken vessel, the needed mobility to operate flares, spread dye marker, or use other signalling devices.

Falling Overboard—But what happens if you should fall overboard from a boat you've been invited aboard for, say, a party? Or an evening cruise with friends? And no one sees you or hears your cries for help? There you are, adrift, scared, the

lights of the boat receding in the distance, the shoreline far away or maybe not visible at all. It's up to you to remain afloat until someone realizes you are missing and a search started. And what do you use as flotation till then? You're wearing it.

I learned my water survival basics in Orlando, Florida, at the Navy Recruit Training Center (boot camp). I practice them often because I'm still on active duty and often go aboard aircraft carriers for extended deployments. Most of the time, I work on the flight deck around fighter jet exhausts 90 or so feet above the water. At all times I wear a sophisticated flotation vest with built-in, rapid CO₂ inflation device, strobe light for night rescue, (commercially known as the "Firefly"), whistle, and a dye marker. I know that a fall from such a height can cause serious injury and also render my flotation vest useless should the uninflated air bladder rupture on impact.

If that happens, I can take immediate action to remain afloat by using my clothing. Trousers, made from natural fibers,

(Continued on page 76)



This is one type of snorkeler's vest that can be found in most dive shops. A mouthpiece inflates the vest quickly if the CO₂ valve fails.



Sonora:

Navy Desert Survival Training

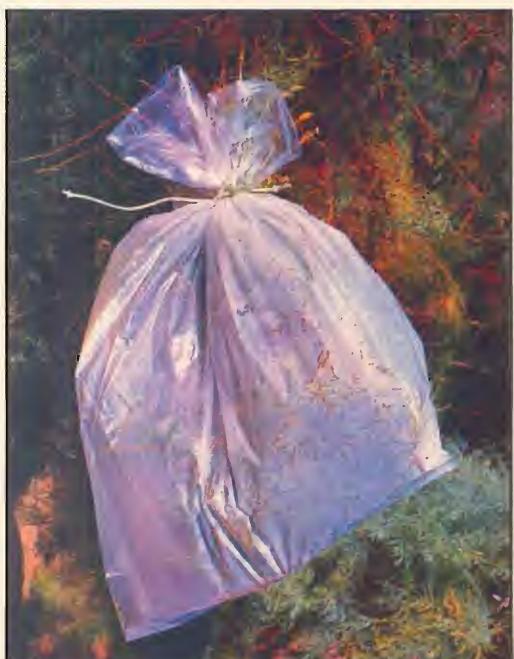


The author and his teammate check their gear before participating in the Navy's Desert Environment Survival Training.

It was hot. We were told the air temperature was 94 degrees and the ground temperature was 118 . . .

By Richard B. McSwain

PHOTOS BY RICHARD B. McSWAIN AND GREGORY D. DOUGHERTY



LEFT — Example of a transpiration bag.

RIGHT — Example of a vegetation still.

BETWEEN — Example of a solar still.



ABOVE — U.S. Navy Petty Officer Greg Dougherty demonstrates the proper use of a signaling mirror.



THE time was 0400, on a cold damp morning in San Diego, California. I awakened to the shriek of my alarm clock, screaming to be shut off. The desire to silence the infernal machine and roll over for a few more hours of sleep was great, but this was the day I had anxiously been waiting for. This was the day I was to attend DEST.

DEST is the acronym for the Navy's Desert Environment Survival Training. The training is conducted by the Fleet Aviation Operational Training Group, Pacific Fleet, headquartered in San Diego.

Training consists of one half day of desert indoctrination in the classroom, and two days of practical application in the Sonora Desert, located in El Centro, California.

I was to report for classroom training by 0530. When I arrived, a few other students were already there, trying to catch a little extra sleep. I found the duty desk, and reported in.

About 0535, we were taken to a classroom, where we filled out a medical history questionnaire. Everyone was through by 0600, and we were given a 30 minute break.

Most people took their break in the junk food machine area. We looked like condemned prisoners, consuming our last meal.

At 0630, the instructors entered, introduced themselves, and briefly described what the course would consist of. They said we would listen to a little advice, collect some water, make camp, take a couple of short walks, and have a real good time. It sounded good so far.

Through the course of the lectures, we learned methods to procure water that seemed the equivalent of squeezing blood from a stone. We learned about solar stills, a pit dug in the ground, and covered with a sheet of plastic. The heat caused by the sun shining through the plastic virtually sucks the moisture right out of the earth. We learned about transpiration bags, and vegetation stills too.

A transpiration bag is merely a large plastic bag, placed over a living bush or shrub, with as many leaves or other foliage as possible going into the bag. The open end must be tightly fastened around the branches. In just a little while, the natural processes that plants undergo, releasing moisture and oxygen to the atmosphere, will be put into high gear, due to the greenhouse effect caused by the bag. The moisture the plant gives off will condense on the inside of the bag, and drip to the bag's lowest point.

The vegetation still is a variation of the transportation bag, and works on the same principle. If you were not able to find enough shrubs to use the bag method, you could pick grass, flowers, cacti, or any other vegetation that might be at hand. Put it inside a large plastic bag, and prop up the bag by putting a stick inside of it. Put the bag on an incline, so that the mois-

ture that forms on the inside of it will run down hill into a clean spot with no vegetation, so that it can be collected and saved for later use.

I found both these methods preferable to a solar still, as they took less effort to construct, and produced more water.

Just before lunch, we were taken to the gear issue area. Our equipment would consist of a web belt, fanny pack, two canteens, a signal mirror, and a whistle. After getting outfitted, we were once again allowed to converge on the candy machines, like a swarm of locusts on a wheat field.

Then we boarded the bus, and set off in search of the desert. Our route took us up into the Laguna Mountains, on San Diego's eastern border. The mountains were cool and green. Then suddenly, as if we had just turned the page of a travel book, we crossed the Laguna Summit, and started our descent. The mountains quickly faded into high desert, with lots of mesquite, cactus, and sage brush. But this too, soon faded, to low desert, with lots of sand, rocks, and little else.

The heat rolled in like a blast from a bake oven. When the bus stopped, so did any air movement.

It was hot. We were told the air temperature was 94 degrees, and the ground temperature was 118. I believed it.

I was starting to have doubts about how easy this course had sounded while sitting in a cool classroom in San Diego sipping my morning coffee.

After piling off the bus, we were introduced to what was to become our best friend. The water buffalo. A water buffalo is a large water tank, mounted on a trailer. We were told we could fill our canteens here whenever we wanted, and that from here on out, it would be our rendezvous point.

After topping off our canteens, we were paired off into two-man teams. Each team was issued a large canvas bag, containing four pieces of parachute, two shovels, some nylon line, and a few plastic bags.

Setting Off—Then we set off on our first hike. It was a short one, actually, but the heat made it seem like a marathon. We hiked down into a flat draw, where we were told to construct our water collecting devices.

We built our vegetation still first, since it was the easiest, and then put up our transpiration bag. By the time we finished digging the pit for our solar still, we noticed we already had collected about two ounces of water from our vegetation still, and moisture was starting to form in our transpiration bag. We finished our solar still, and took a short break while we finished off our first canteen of water.

A little while later, our instructors came over and checked the progress we had made collecting water. Every team had at least one functioning collection device.

Then we hiked over to an area where the instructors had built examples of water

collection devices, shelters, and ground-to-air rescue signals.

Shelters varied from quick temporary shelters consisting of nothing more than a piece of parachute draped over a bush to create a little shade, to more elaborate ones, consisting of a pit about 18 inches deep, with at least two layers of parachute material suspended above it for a roof.

The reason for digging a pit is because the temperature can be as much as 25 degrees cooler 12 inches below the surface. It also allows the roof of the shelter to be high enough above the floor to sit comfortably, yet still close enough to the ground to cast a shadow at all times of the day.

We then hiked back to the water buffalo, refilled our now empty canteens, and then proceeded to a large Tee Pee-type tent that the instructors had constructed from a full parachute.

Everyone welcomed the shade and opportunity to sit and drink while the instructors provided us with more survival tips, such as edible plants, animals, and how to start fires.

One of the most ingenious (and easiest) ways to start a fire I have ever seen was shown. It consists of stuffing a small piece of common steel wool (like that found in any kitchen) into the bottom of your flashlight. It's light, highly compressible, and can be forgotten until such a time as it is needed.

To start a fire, gather some tinder, and some kindling, and have it ready to go. Remove the steel wool and batteries from your flashlight. Pull and stretch the steel wool with your fingers until you have a piece about six inches long, and about as thick as your finger. Put the steel wool next to your tinder, and sit the bottom of one of the batteries on one end of it. Stack the other battery on top of the first, just like it was in the flashlight. Then touch the loose end of the steel wool strand on the top of the battery. The steel wool will immediately burst into a shower of bright hot sparks. Let the wool fall into your tinder, give it a couple of puffs of air, and presto, instant fire.

After a few more demonstrations and discussions, we were given our evening meal, to be eaten later. The meal was a standard GI MRE. Then we were sent back to check on our water collection devices.

My transpiration bag and vegetation still were quite successful, but my solar still left much to be desired. The water we collected tasted strongly of the plants we had collected it from, but it was drinkable, and would have definitely been better than no water at all.

After disassembling our collection devices, we were sent to another area nearby to construct our shelters that we would sleep in that night.

My partner and I selected our shelter site, and started digging. The sand was relatively soft, and the digging was easy. For about the first six inches in depth, that

is. Then we hit a layer of compressed sand that was almost as hard as a rock. We dug on anyway, and eventually succeeded in excavating a pit about eight feet square, and about 18 inches deep.

We tied one end of our parachute to a sage brush, and used rocks to support the other end about 12 inches above the ground. We tied another piece of parachute 12 inches above the first, to provide additional insulation from the sun.

Even though it was as hot as blazes right now, we agreed to leave enough extra chute material along the sides of our shelter so we could close off the openings if the night got cold. This turned out to be a wise decision, because the wind really picked up and started to blow after dark. It never really got cold, but the wind did blow a lot of loose sand all over the place. The next morning, we watched the students who had not prepared for the wind excavating themselves from their pits, which had become partially filled by the blowing sand.

We made improvised sleeping bags from parachute material, by folding it over and over, one gore (gore are the triangular panels that parachutes are made of) to the next. Then a large overhand knot is tied between the small end and the large end of the chute, depending on the length of the bag desired. The top is rolled down like rolling up your cuffs, and you slide down into the bag from the top opening. It's quite effective for keeping body heat in, and spiders and scorpions out.

Finally, after a long hot 12-hour day, our sleeping accommodations were complete, and it was time to prepare our evening meal, which would consist of an MRE.

MRE stands for Meal, Ready to Eat, and is the new replacement for the infamous C rations. While higher in nutrition than foraged foods, I doubt that they are any more palatable than snake stew, or rodent souffle, which were the alternatives.

Having opted for the MREs, my partner and I decided it would be worth the trouble to start a fire and warm them up. We dug a pit, gathered some wood, and cooked our supper. Surprisingly, we were the only ones to heat dinner.

By the time we had finished dinner, the sun was setting, and we had time to sit back and enjoy the cool of the evening, as we watched the cook fire burn itself out.

This was not the end of the day's activities, however. In less than 30 minutes, we had to join the rest of our classmates at the water buffalo. We would be going on a four-kilometer hike.

On our way to the meeting place, one of the students discovered a rattlesnake. It served as a harsh reminder that this was not all fun and games, and had the potential for becoming deadly serious at any



Cooking the night's meal, an MRE, over an open fire.

time. The instructors captured the snake, and removed it, to be released unharmed a safe distance away from our camp.

After topping off our canteens, we were led off in columns of two, into the black void of the desert at night. Eventually, the moon rose, and we acquired enough night vision that we could walk without tripping over every little rock in our path.

We walked about two kilometers, and when we came to the top of a large hill, we were told to sit down and face the way we had come from.

Other instructors, who had hiked out in the opposite direction, then demonstrated night signaling devices and methods, including a regular flashlight, the spark caused by striking a match, and the reflection of the moon off of a signal mirror.

Then, to demonstrate nighttime land navigation, a flashing light was turned on back at camp, and our two-man teams were sent back at five-minute intervals.

It sounded wavy, but the light was only visible from the peaks of hills, so you had to pick a landmark, navigate to it, climb the next hill, pick another landmark, and continue.

Back At Camp—Once everybody made it back to camp, we topped off our canteens at the water buffalo, and were then allowed to crawl into our shelters to try to sleep.

You would think that after an 18-hour day, 12 hours of which had been spent in the desert, digging holes and walking and hauling, that sleep would come easy. Even after all that, most of us found it difficult to sleep in our pits, lying on the hard ground, with rocks poking and prodding into every soft part of our anatomy. And in addition to this, was the added discomfort from aching muscles, hurting feet, and sunburned hands and faces.

Eventually I dozed off to sleep, only to hear the signal to wake up and get out of bed, in what seemed like only a few short minutes since I had gone into my shelter.

Quite to my amazement, when I checked

my watch it was 0600, and I had actually been asleep for a couple of hours.

After crawling out of our sleeping bags, everyone carefully checked their boots and clothing before putting them on, to insure that no scorpions or other creatures had decided to nest in them for the night.

Our first task of the day was to disassemble our shelters. We repacked our chutes into the bag, scattered the rocks and filled in the pit that had been our home. In just a few days, there would be no sign of our intrusion into the desert.

At 0730, we were to meet at the water buffalo one more time, for a four kilometer day hike.

By 0800, we were all ready to venture off. We hiked down a dry wash, with our instructor pointing out the many types of fauna and flora indigenous to the area as we walked. We saw jack rabbits, lizards, and many types of small birds.

We were told about a plant called the Mormon Tea plant. It's called Mormon Tea because it contains no caffeine. It does contain an antihistamine, which can help relieve congestion and provide a quick pick me up. The effects can also be obtained by chewing the needles.

After hiking about two klicks, we climbed another hill, and looked back towards camp to observe some day signals.

We witnessed flashes from a signal mirror, and the smoke from a fire fueled by green vegetation. Both were quite visible from extreme distances.

We again paired up, and navigated back to camp. It was much easier following the column of smoke during the day than it had been following the flashing light at night.

Once everyone had returned to camp, the instructors passed out critique sheets and asked for the students' inputs, comments, and suggestions.

Everyone was unanimously impressed with the course, and with the instructors as well. We all felt that we would be able to survive becoming suddenly stranded in the desert. Maybe not in total comfort, and definitely not for an extended period, but long enough to signal for help and safely wait for its arrival.

After thanking the instructors, we all filled our canteens for the last time. Probably more from habit than from necessity, since we would be home in a few hours.

Then we all boarded the bus, and waited to begin the long hot ride back to civilization. ●

Gas Masks

(Continued from page 49)

cycle racers. The outserts make the mask more resistant to contamination by chemical agents as well as provide a quick means of clearing outside of the eyelens if they become dirty. The M17 comes in three versions M17, M17A1, and M17A2; the M17 is the basic mask. The M17A1 version has a drinking tube and artificial respiration tube. In the M17A2, the artificial respiration tube has been deleted since it was wholly ineffective. The M17A2 also has an improved voicemitter which provides clear speech while being more resistant to cracking. The M17A2 masks will gradually replace the M17 and M17A1 in the Army inventory as they become available. This is an interim measure while the XM-40 completes its development and procurement phases.

The M24 aircraft and M25/M25A1 tanker masks are the same mask differing only in the type of microphone and microphone connector fitted. The canvas carrier of the aircraft mask is worn on the right, the tanker mask on the left. Essentially, the mask is similar to the M3 rat-faced infantry mask issued during WW2 with several modifications.

The mask features a full view single eyelens bonded into a Kops-Tissot type facepiece executed in black rubber. It is attached by a cloth reinforced rubber hose to a very hard breathing (but excellent protection) M10A1 filter canister. A connector fits on the canister which fits into the vehicle or aircraft collective ventilation system. The filter stays relatively clean since the mask is meant for operation with the vehicle ventilation system the majority of the time. An oxygen inlet fitting is available for high altitude aircraft use. This mask was originally issued with a grey rubber facepiece under the designation M14.

The Navy MK V and Army M9A1 masks are special purpose industrial grade masks. The MK V is used for the closed spaces aboard ship. It is very hard breathing due to its twin commercial style filters, and has a full-view facepiece that is prone to fogging.

The M9A1 mask was the Army standard issue infantry mask before the adoption of the M17 in the early 1960s. It is now used exclusively by Army and Marine Corps personnel engaged in chemical handling or decontamination operations. The Marine Corps version is called the M9 and differs from the M9A1 only in the construction of the canvas carrier. The mask looks like an M17 without the cheek pouches. It comes in a variety of sizes and in left- and right-hand versions. Its M11 filter canister combines easy breathing with great protection. Though the M9A1 has no voicemitter a soldier can aim a rifle through it, a feat impossible with the M17. •

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MAIL CALL**Mini Thirty Rifle**

I have been a loyal reader of your fine publication for many years. I found your March issue very informative. I am writing this letter in regard to one of your articles. The Ruger 7.62 x 39mm. In the article you give praise to this firearm. With the exception of some bad sight screws you give it high marks. You blame the feeding problems on the ammo. In your January 1985 issue you tested the Chinese AK and gave it high marks. The ammo and action worked in perfect harmony. This is the same ammo you used in the Ruger, and which is currently being made by the billions of rounds for the 30 million-plus AKs out there. Perhaps the problem is with the Ruger and not the ammo. I have used the AK (which I purchased on your article's results) and have never had a problem.

Matthew T. Newman
Augusta, New Jersey

Combat Survivalists, Mini Thirty Rifle

I wish to comment on two items featured in your magazine recently. First, regarding the combat survivalists, no one should look down their nose at the folks who choose weaponry and combat skills as their first priority when it comes to the kind of survival. If, or when, the balloon goes up, it may be necessary to reach your already provisioned reseat, or to transport yourself and your provisions to a chosen site. Whatever your situation, the idea is to arrive safely and covertly. Both could be impossible without adequate means of armed protection, and without appropriate and thorough prior training. Both mean the difference between keeping what you have, including your life, and being able to fend for yourself past the duration of your provisions. Regarding your article on Ruger's new Mini Thirty rifle which fires the Soviet AK-47 and AKM round, the 7.62 x 39mm cartridge, while I hail Ruger's daring in coming out with this Mini-14 in caliber 7.62 x 39 Russian Short, I also fail to see how this feature's writer can heap tons of praise on the weapon, while faulting 95 percent of today's available ammunition. The Chinese or most Eastern Bloc cartridges may become the only ammunition source in a *Red Dawn* situation, unless the new AK-74 will have been universally adopted by all communist countries. In any case, a weapon which chokes on all but high grade ammo becomes useless to a survivalist who has any common sense at all. I will allow Ruger some praise in taking a step in the right

direction, but unless they build their Mini Thirty to shoot anything, please don't recommend it, especially in a survival context. I'll just stick to my AK-56S—It's not a picky eater and will pig out on anything!

Name Withheld

Master Sergeant, U.S. Army
Ruger recommends against using low grade, corrosive ammo in its newest version of the Mini-14 and, while we agree with you that this makes its use with much of the available ammunition today limited, we don't see this as making the rifle useless for survival purposes (of course many people who buy the rifle will not be particularly interested in the Mini Thirty's role as a combat survival or military weapon). AK-47 and AKM rifles are being replaced by the newer AK-74 rifle which fires a round similar to the M16 round. However, obviously there are many millions of the AK-47s and AKMs around in the world today and these will continue to be used, along with the still powerful 7.62 x 39mm cartridge, for many years to come. There are a number of U.S. ammunition makers that make high quality 7.62 x 39mm ammunition and more may do so in the future. And we suspect there is also good high quality communist-made ammo of this type which will be more available as time goes on. Also, people can hand load this ammo. We understand your concerns about having a weapon that will not "eat anything," but we don't see this as rendering the Mini Thirty useless for a combat survival role. We think having a rifle which will fire only better quality ammunition is better than having no weapon at all.

Need For Survival Information

I have recently purchased your March issue and have thoroughly enjoyed the reading it had to offer. I am a police officer and have been for approximately two years. After completing the reading in your magazine I have come to the conclusion that a magazine of this nature is a necessity to our society of today. Unless things change for the better in our judicial system, I can only say to you, keep up the good work. The March issue had an article on the training of women bodyguards which was of interest to me. Could you please tell me the names and addresses of any such schools in my area and if not, any in other parts of the U.S.?

Ralph F. Correa
Orlando, Florida

Thanks for the compliments. The names and addresses of all such training facilities we know of are in the mail to you. •

Heat Disorders

(Continued from page 20)

affected or cramped after physical activity are those of the extremities. Occasionally, abdominal cramps are also experienced.

The body temperature is usually within normal limits. It is also important to realize that direct exposure to the sun is not a prerequisite to being affected. Skiers who overdress against the cold have also been known to experience these cramps.

The symptoms are due to the body's depletion of salt by profuse sweating. If we work in hot environments or do a lot of exercise that causes us to perspire a lot, we must be careful.

Drinking plenty of fluids and taking salt tablets with each two glasses of water will prevent this problem.

Moving the patient to a cool, well-ventilated area and giving him salted water constitutes a good basic treatment. By gently massaging the sore muscles, some of the cramping pain can be relieved. Once recovered, the patient must determine the reason for his predicament. A few days of rest are highly recommended.

HEAT EXHAUSTION: This is probably the most common heat disorder and is the body's reaction to prolonged exposure to high temperatures. It is caused by excessive fluid loss. Its onset is sudden and is due to dehydration (from inadequate water intake), a depletion of sodium (adequate intake of water but insufficient salt), or a combination of both.

Because of the fluid loss, the victim will become weak, fatigued anxious and will perspire profusely. All of this can lead to circulatory collapse, major seizures and eventual heat stroke. Those commonly affected work in hot environments, the elderly, or are taking prescribed diuretics.

Treatment consists of moving the patient to a cool and adequately ventilated area. Wet him and/or fan him to remove body heat by convection. Again be careful since you want the victim cooled but not chilled. If possible, give by mouth, cool water with salt. Send for medical help, if possible, since I.V. fluids and monitoring may be needed. Therefore, hospitalization is recommended.

HEAT STROKE (Sun Stroke): The key to this life-threatening medical emergency is an absence in most victims of sweating along with hot and dry skin. This is due to a failure of the body's heat-regulating mechanisms to self-regulate and lower the temperature.

If the victim is conscious, he will tell you that he feels as if he is burning up. Don't ignore the symptoms and signs and fail to recognize this deadly syndrome. If you do a rectal temperature and find it over 104 degrees F. then immediately proceed to lower it. Remember, the victim does not have to be out in the sun for this to occur.

(Continued on page 71)

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Heat Disorders

(Continued from page 69)

The danger with heat stroke is that it can progress rapidly to shock and eventual death from cerebral, cardiovascular, renal and hepatic destruction. The body tissue damage is caused by the extremely high body temperature. Therefore, the temperature must be lowered to 102 degrees F. as rapidly as possible. Once 102 degrees F. has been reached, discontinue the drastic measures but continue to monitor the rectal temperature every 10 minutes for possible febrile rebound. It is now important that you do not allow the temperature to fall so fast and low that the patient converts from a state of hyperpyrexia to hypothermia, which in itself is a medical emergency.

This disorder is common seen in the elderly with chronic diseases as congestive heart failure, in long distance runners, and military recruits. Standard first aid treatment is putting the patient in a cool well-ventilated area. Since external means of heat dissipation must be done at once to lower the temperature, remove the clothing. Now, if available, begin a cold water bath, but be careful. You must not put an unconscious person in a body of water that you can't control him in. DON'T DROWN ANYONE! You can also wet the body and rapidly fan it to cool it down quicker.

Next massage the extremities to promote the circulation of cooled blood to all body parts.

When the opportunity arises, call for help since this patient will need to be hospitalized where drugs, oxygen (if cyanosis is present), further cooling and monitoring can be continued if necessary.

This is serious and the mortality or death rate is close to 100 percent in untreated patients. The victim's survival depends on your ability to aggressively bring about rapid cooling.

CONCLUSION: These disorders can be minor or deadly. Much depends on how you handle them or if pertaining to yourself, how to avoid the pitfalls.

Generally speaking, match your clothing selection for outdoor activities or work to the weather. Remain in a cool, shaded environment when it is hottest out and avoid strenuous activities during those periods of heat and high humidity. If you have any of the risk factors mentioned, be aware of them and take appropriate action.

Before doing strenuous activities or going into the wilderness where medical care is not readily available, get a good physical from your doctor (M.D. or D.O.) and have he or she explain any side effects you should be aware of from medicines you may be taking. Remember, the best treatment is, if at all possible, prevention. A good first aid course is also highly recommended. ●

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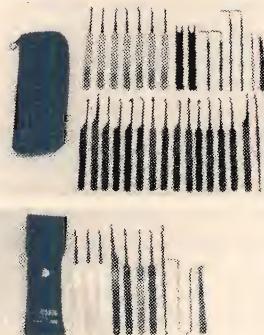
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Smoky Mountain Survival knife with heavy 4 1/4-inch blade tucks nicely into its boot or belt sheath.

THERE'S a knife for everyone's taste in the Parker Cutlery catalog. From hefty Bowie blades and deluxe folding lockbacks, to kitchen cutlery and throwing stars, this Tennessee company offers a little bit of everything—to the tune of nearly 1,000 models, sizes and styles.

Parker Cutlery is a knife *wholesaler*, which means their products cost less than if you bought 'em in a sporting goods store. They sell to independent dealers, most of whom earn side income peddling blades to friends and co-workers. However, Parker will sell at wholesale to anyone with a catalog, as long as they order at least \$25 worth of cutlery at one time.

Parker knives are made in their own factory in Japan (Seki City, Gifu Prefecture), under the tradenames of "Eagle Brand" (the parent name), "American Brand" or "Parker-Imai." This area of Japan has long been famous for its quality swordmakers, a revered trade in that country.

Many Parker knives have "second-cut stag" handles; this is genuine stag bone material, but the decorative grooves are machined into the surface and the color is dyed in. This material offers very pleasing looks, and my tests show it's as sturdy as any "first-cut" stag antler handle. Only discarded antlers are used, since company owners don't believe in killing animals for material gain.

Blade material on Parker Eagle Brand knives is "surgical steel." Factory spokesman say this is a higher grade of corrosion-resistant steel than stainless, and it holds a better edge.

My favorite pocket knife is Model #115-51, a 3 1/2-inch blade drop-point hunter with second-cut stag handles. The

Mail order knives at wholesale prices . . .

By Joe Zambone

blade is surgical steel with lining and bolsters of brass; Parker's famous eagle logo is engraved on the blade. This knife is 4 5/8 inches long closed, and fits hand and pocket like the proverbial glove.

I tested the "Big Lou," #K-139, a massive lockback 5 inches long closed, with a 3 3/4-inch surgical steel blade and second-cut stag handles. It's supplied with a nicely-made leather basketweave belt sheath, with snap closure.

Parker's #J69L "Big Smoky" is a boot or belt dagger with a 6 7/8-inch double-edged blade. The surgical blade is nearly a quarter-inch thick at the center spine, and has 2 inches of serrations on each edge about 3 1/2 inches back from the dagger tip. The handle is olive drab aluminum, and the knife comes with a sheath with belt loop and GI ammo belt clip.

For survivalists there's Parker's "Special Forces Survival" belt knife, Model #K-672. It's 11 inches overall, with a 6 1/4-inch surgical blade (.140-inch thick) and lightweight hollow Valox plastic handle. The knife has a sawtooth back edge 3 inches long, a compass in the end cap, a complete survival kit which stores in the handle, and hard Valox sheath with sharpening stone, plus Morse Code and Internatinal ground-to-air distress signal molded into the surface. The sheath has nylon cord leg ties, and Velcro fastening to hold the knife in place and cover the stone.

The Valox plastic used on this and some other Parker knives is virtually indestructible. It saves weight and is much nicer to use in cold weather than the typical metal-handle knife. Finger grooves ensure a good handhold.

Model K-633 is a lunker-sized survival knife, 15 inches long overall, sporting a single-edge 9 1/2-inch blade with sawtooth back. It has a hollow cast aluminum handle and comes with sheath and sharpening stone. Ours had a black Teflon finish, but plain steel finish is also available.

The 633's blade is .165-inch thick for half the length nearest the handle, and about .100-inch thick towards the point. The handle's weight makes the knife blade-light, and it feels strange to hold. I felt the blade might have insufficient thickness for ong-term survival work, but I

chopped enough wood to determine that it'd take very rough usage to break this knife.

The "Silver Sentry," #J-1069, is an all-steel dagger 8 1/2 inches long overall, with double-edged 3 3/4-inch blade of 3/16-inch thickness. The handle and blade are machined from a single piece of surgical steel; five circular holes in the handle keep weight down. It's supplied with a boot/belt sheath in basketweave design.

Parker's Model #K-363 "Smoky Mountain Survival" knife has a 4 1/4-inch blade almost 3/16-inch thick, a hollow aluminum handle with compartment for survival goodies (included in price), and a well-made boot/belt sheath. This would be a great hunting or woods knife, and adequate for short-term survival with the kit installed.

In the decorative knife department, the kind of blade carried to evoke envy among friends, there are five lovely Damascus steel knives made in Alabama for Parker by Fain Edwards. Each blade has 512 layers of steel, and after grinding and polishing the layers are magically transformed into miniature contour maps on the blade's surface. Handles are exquisite "sandbar stag," and bolsters are nickel-silver.

Under the American Blade logo, Parker offers hand-engraved scrimshaw knives, with genuine bone handles and stainless steel or German silver bolsters, for as little as \$10. There are also limited edition designer knives, etched blade knives and custom handmade offerings in every possible style. Others have mother of pearl, abalone, micarta or genuine stag handles.

There are straight razors in Parker's catalog, plus kitchen knives, cleavers, and cutlery sets with wooden block holders. Collector's editions and throwing stars, knife sharpening tools and Valox-handled lightweight pocket knives, butterfly stickers and fillet blades—no matter what you like, Parker has it.

There's more, but your best bet is to write for a catalog (\$2, but worth it): Parker Cutlery, Dept. ASG, 6928 Lee Hwy., P.O. Box 22668, Chattanooga, TN 37422. Don't forget to enclose two bucks. You'll get catalogs throughout the year once on their mailing list. •

AMERICAN **SURVIVAL** GUIDE

RIGHT—The Special Forces Survival knife as a 6 1/4-inch blade with sawback, hollow Valox handle and emergency signals stamped on the Valox sheath.



RIGHT—The Big Lou is a lockback that measures 5 inches closed. It has second-cut stag handles.

BELOW—Parker's Silver Sentry is an all-steel dagger, 8 1/2 inches overall with 3 3/4-inch blade.



Luxury, Survival:



Ducks Truck

The DU Suburban comes standard with 4 WD, V-8 engine . . .

Staff Report



NO, you're not looking at a vehicle from a new Rambo movie. Nor is this truck something the military is using, though the armed forces do have some

camouflaged vehicles that look similar—on the outside at least.

This is the Ducks Unlimited "Limited Edition" Chevrolet Suburban created by



Ducks Unlimited, General Motors Corporation and Starcraft "for the hunter who has everything."

While we don't contend that this would be the ultimate survival vehicle, it does have survival-related qualities among its many luxuries and it could serve, with its 40-gallon fuel tank, as a getaway vehicle. So we thought readers might find the truck of interest, even though it's definitely not for everyone.

Powered by a V-8 engine, the DU Suburban comes standard with four-wheel drive. You can purchase it with an optional brush guard, front winch, top storage compartment and 12-foot Jon boat (shown here) that's painted to match. For the more luxury minded, the truck can also be had with factory-installed television, video cassette recorder/player, remote start, citizens band radio and radar detector.

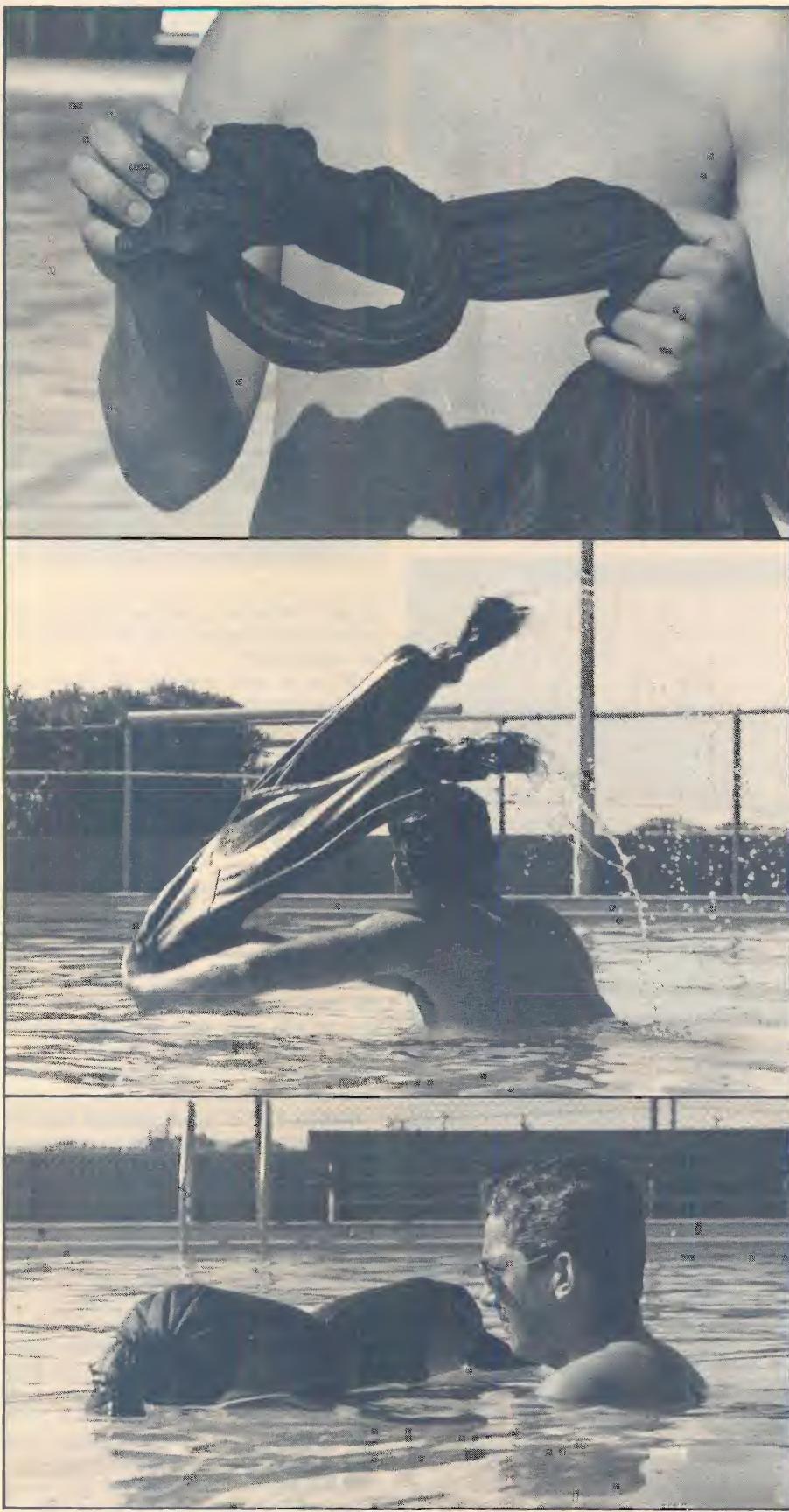
Besides 4 WD, other standard features include gun lockers with racks and many other storage compartments. Canvas duck camouflage covers the four captains chairs, bench seat, side panels and ceiling. Standard front wheel hubs lock manually but you can get optional auto-locking hubs which the truck pictured here has for shifting into 4 WD while moving.

There are many other attractive standard features such as fog lights, grab handles above doors, two 12-volt plug receptacles, all-terrain radial tires, teak overhead console with Delco ETR 2000 AM/FM Cassette and four speakers, and windshield mounted compass.

The GMC Ducks Unlimited Suburban is available by special order, starting at about \$29,000, from GMC truck dealers nationwide. •

Water Survival Basics

(Continued from page 63)



To inflate trousers, first knot the ends of the legs, then swing them over your shoulder and into the water waist first. Once inflated, these trousers are supporting a 190-pound man in 15 feet of water.

work best. Blue jeans, khaki trousers, military fatigues, cotton slacks, all work well. The reason for this is that the fibers in the material swell when they absorb water and can be used to trap air. By tying a simple overhand knot as far down towards the cuff as possible, two large air chambers are formed. By zipping the fly and buttoning or snapping the waistband, your pants are now ready to inflate. This is accomplished by holding the waistband opening apart with both hands and swinging the pants over the shoulder and into the water in front of your waist opening first. After a few minutes practice, you will find that both legs fill up with air. To hold this flotation device, continue holding onto the waistband or tuck one inflated leg under each armpit with the crotch of the pants stretched across the chest.

Be careful not to force the inflated pants under the water any more than necessary as the material will still permit some air to escape. As that trapped air gradually escapes, the pants will need to be re-inflated as was done initially. If a pair of rain pants or nylon, bib type overalls are used in lieu of trousers, air will remain trapped in the legs considerably longer.

One caution here. A hole or threadbare patch on the knee of your trousers will not allow that leg to hold air when inflated. Insuring that your clothing is always in good repair is cheap insurance.

There is one last item I'd like to discuss. This is a device I highly recommend to fishermen who pursue their sport in the ocean surf, from rocky jetties, and in the frigid glacial rivers of the Pacific Northwest. This device is known as a Snorklers Vest and can be purchased in most any dive shop. While some manufacturers produce fishing vests with sewn-in flotation, they are marginal at best and useless if a deep hole or turned ankle results in waders filled with water.

The vest is worn over the head like the old "horse collar" life preservers. It then fastens around the torso, (methods vary) and remains uninflated until needed. It's similar to my flight deck vest in that it has a large CO₂ cartridge built into an inflation valve that is operated by a pull lanyard. Inflation is almost instantaneous. Should the lanyard activated puncture pin fail to release CO₂ into the vest, it is also equipped with an oral inflation tube.

When worn deflated, mobility is excellent. This is sure to appeal to fishermen who wish the freedom of movement their sport demands. Some models even feature a velcro flap pocket for additional gear as needed. Cost varies from \$60 to \$110, depending on the model. Quality construction is the rule with these vests rather than the exception. For the money, and the peace of mind it provides, this is one piece of insurance that's hard to beat. ●

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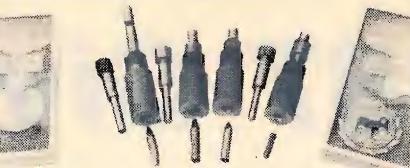
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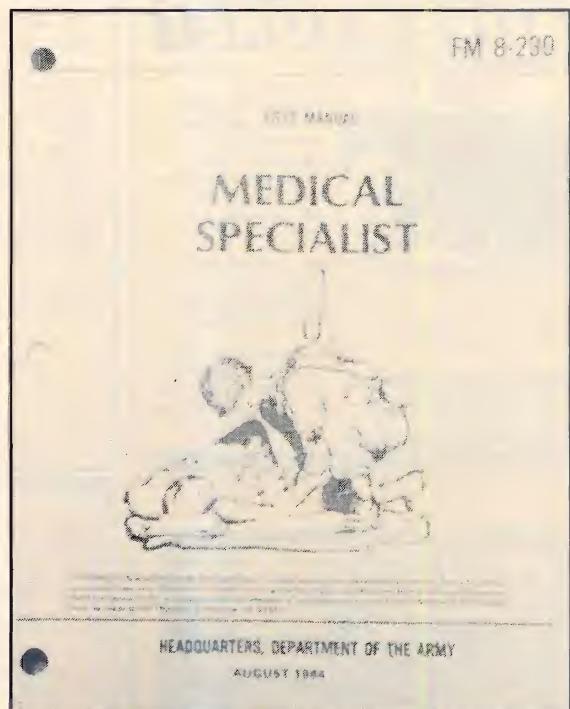
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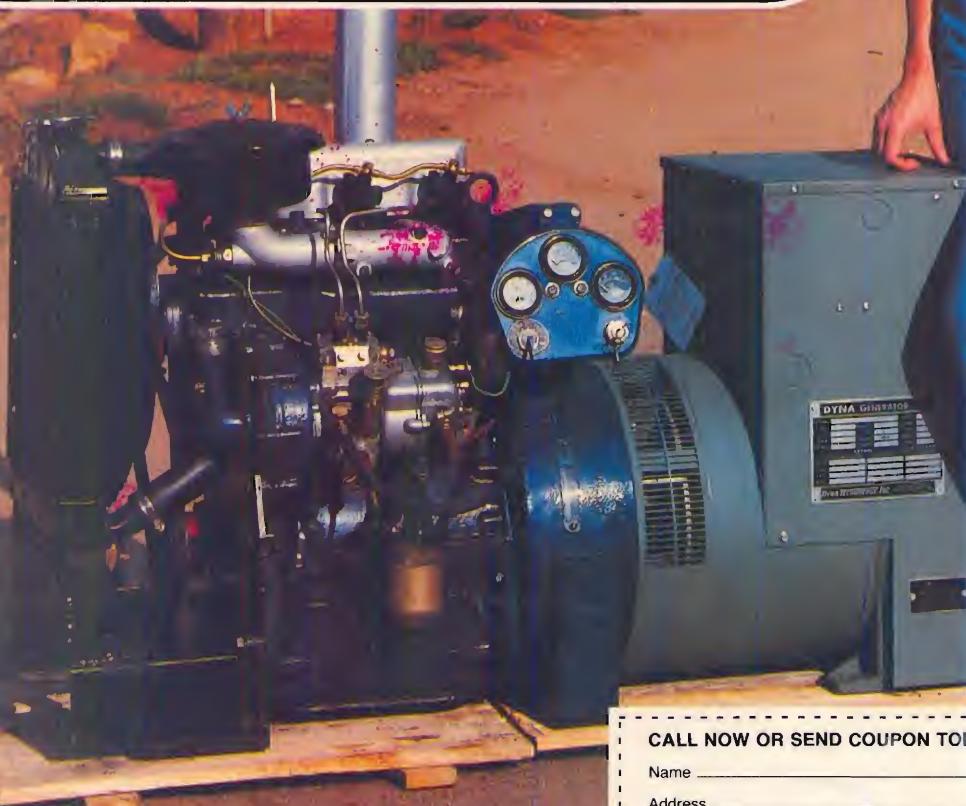
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